

SEPTEMBER 1994

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

Guide to Electronic Bulletin Boards and the Internet

THE TOP 100 BBSs IN THE U.S.

1994 Boardwatch 100
Readers' Choice BBS
Contest Results

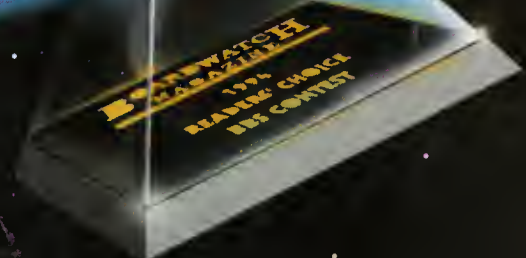
Plus

MAJOR BBS ON THE INTERNET

New Internet
Connectivity Option
Provides telnet/ftp
to Major BBS

CIX-WE OWN THE INTERNET

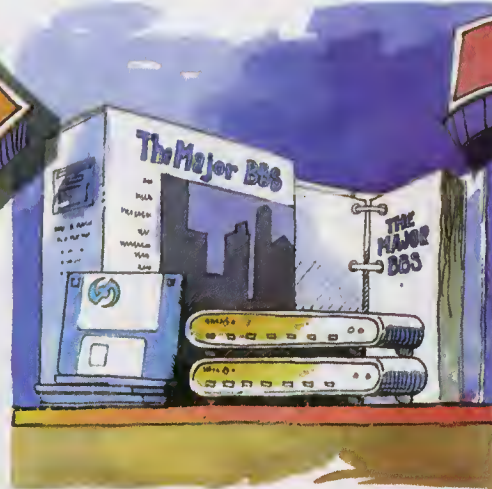
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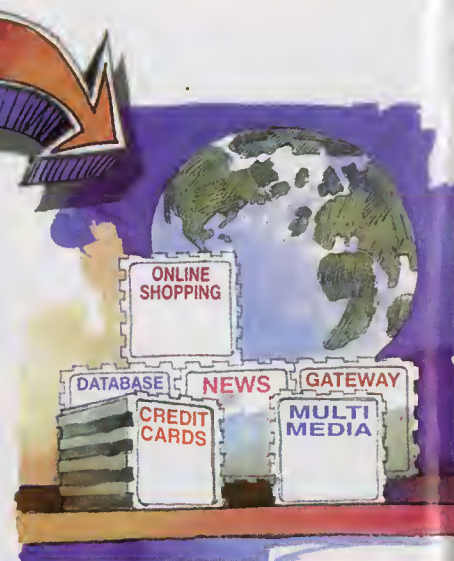
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You smoothly integrate multi-user applications as you need them...

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As you grow, you add more lines, hook up your LAN, connect to the Internet...

And you experience the success of your own, unique online service.

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For more information, give us a call at 1-800-328-1128 (or 305-583-5990 outside the U.S. and Canada). And let's turn your visions into **reality**.

GALACTICOMM

September 1994

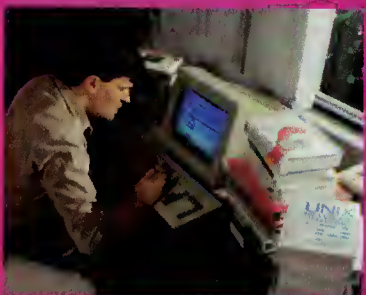
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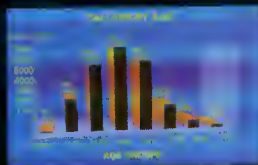
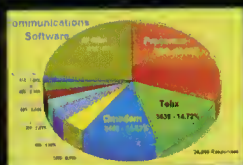
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Boardwatch Magazine (Issn:1054-2760) is published monthly at an annual subscription rate of \$36. (\$99 Overseas) by Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO. 80123. Second Class postage paid at Littleton, CO and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 West Bowles Ave. Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123 Printed in USA.



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- ▲ In addition to complete documentation, TBBS comes with a 40 minute installation video tape.
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EDITOR'S NOTES

MUD WRESTLING ON THE INTERNET

Connectivity is one of the strangest commodities on the planet. It exhibits some astounding properties.

We think of intangible items that do have a significant value as generally unique. A one of a kind painting carries most of its value intangibly - the canvas, frame, and paint are not particularly valuable. But the painting is - often based on a combination of aesthetics, history, and authorship that make it unique. If you could make exact copies of it in ad infinitum numbers, it would not be nearly so valuable.

Connectivity is an intangible, has significant value, but is reproducible simply by the act of connecting. It is a verb in a commodity world of nouns. This gives it several astounding properties that otherwise bright people really find consternating.

First, the more of it you sell, the more of it you have in stock. If you connect 10 people, you then have 10 people for the eleventh to connect to. If you connect 100 people, you then have 100 people to connect the 101st to. Purchaser 101 actually got a better deal than purchaser 11. But purchaser 11 had the value of what they bought go up by the act of connecting 101 as well.

Which brings up the second astounding property. The more of it you have, the more valuable it becomes. Most commodities go DOWN in value based on supply and demand, scarcity and plentitude. Connectivity always works backwards. The more of it you HAVE in stock, the more valuable it becomes as a commodity.

The third astounding property is the Loaves and Fishes Property of Connectivity. If you sell ONE connection to anyone on the planet, they can likewise sell it to hundreds of others - at a lower price than you sold it to them. Which makes it a little hard to corner the market on, and despite some costs of doing business, you're basically selling air if ALL you sell is connectivity.

Simple connectivity can be made flat, by offering one model, at a reasonable price. If you want to connect to MCI Mail, they basically have one model, one fairly reasonable price, and the result is

they sell it widely but not deeply. It's a flat fanout.

Internet connectivity is heirarchical by design. You can divide it down through a tree hierarchy until no one gets more than about 100 cps of connectivity, and it still more or less works. Packet on a tree.

Most of this seems a little obvious. But we've currently got a crowd forming, resembling nothing so much as all the hounds of hell in a pre-adolescent phase, determined not only to sell air, but to own the entire market for it. And the number of players is growing like a crowd around an armored truck accident. IBM has announced the IBM Global Network. Sprint now has not only Sprint Link, but Global Link, MCI has announced little, they're just basically hiring everyone that can spell TCP/IP and get it right before the third try - with some vague arm waving about Q1/95. A vice president of MCI is going to IBM's global network. Steve Wolffe, head of the National Science Foundation that funds the current backbone, is rumored to be going to work for MCI, which is further rumored to be buying SURAnet, which is not BARRnet because BARRnet was bought by BBN. Vint Cerf was the head of the Internet Society, but now he works for MCI. It's an Internet frenzy. Contracts aren't contracts, they're "cooperative agreements" so it's all cool. The New York NAP is actually near Philadelphia, so the National Security Agency won't have to walk so far to listen in. What a contree!

In the debate about commercial use of the Internet and the nearly mythical Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) a few years ago, a group called CIX was formed - the Commercial Internet Exchange. It was formed to demonstrate a commercial network, real enough to NOT be transparently mythical, so that companies could connect to CIX members and so to the Internet, with some assurance that they weren't infringing the AUP. That their packets didn't ever transit the NSF backbone anyway is absurd. But it was a salutary nod/effort toward the AUP acceptable to almost everyone.

The interesting thing CIX had going for it was it simplified interconnection issues because the heart of it was that all members would send/receive to all others without any settlement fees.

Whichever way the traffic flowed and in whatever direction, nobody measured or charged each other for "carrying each other's traffic." This ended the otherwise endless and insolvable debate as to whether my connectivity was larger than yours so YOU should pay ME to connect to me, or whether my connected people were more desirable to reach and so it should really be reversed. Members paid \$10,000 each and were peers.

Over the past two years, the number of people making the connection to the Internet has been phenomenal. And when you examine the startup costs to take your new found IP connectivity, sell it to 10 others, recoup your costs and the cost of your pipe to the net, it looks a lot like a license to print money and spend it before the ink's dry. So there's been an explosion of new "Internet Providers."

A couple of the early pioneers in selling Internet connectivity were Rick Adams, of UUNET, and Marty Schoffstall of PSI. They railed to high heaven at the National Science Foundation spewing accusations of conspiracy, malfeasance, and high crimes over every jot and tittle of any NSF cooperative agreement that our government was selling out to IBM and it would shut them, the little guy, out from being able to sell this connectivity. They won, and so were allowed to.

Once in the club, their first official act was to try to be the last in, and shut off anyone else. PSI simply won't allow anyone to resell connections by contract. UUNET tacks on an additional \$8000 per year charge to make them go away. Now that they were in, screw the little guys - they can get their own.

And many regionals and service providers who did get into the game followed suit. Adding contractual clauses to all customer agreements limiting or forbidding in various clumsily worded ways of dubious legal heritage the ability of their customers to become their competition. The remarkable thing is that for some time this gravity defying strategy seemed to work and keep the whole thing in the air - however bizarre, inappropriate, unfair, and niggardly it all seemed. We usually refer to these as Dog in the Manger clauses. Generally these ISPs have done a poor job servicing demand

for connectivity, but they won't let anyone else do it either.

Into this really genteel little boys club rides U.S. Sprint with Sprint Link. Sprint basically hooks up anybody, anywhere, anytime for a fee, and they don't care what you do with it. You can bury your end in the ground, or use it to light up the pope at night. You can sell it, resell it, repackage it, or just assume someone else in your office is using it and put a plant in front of it.

And the house of cards starts to tumble. The other Internet Services Providers didn't actually have a business, they had a wish for one. And if anyone said booger to the little contract clauses, it would be over. Sprint did. They would NOT be able to charge anyone \$50,000 per year for \$400 worth of connectivity, and their little spreadsheets went all atremble. Mom and Pop POPS starting to pop up like mushrooms. The two hurt most were of course UUNET and PSI - with ridiculous pricing structures based on wishful thinking.

In a meeting July 7-8, the CIX board made a bold move. They announced that everyone selling IP connections anywhere, right down to Joe's Discount SLIPs, would pay them \$10,000 per year or be route/path "filtered."

Basically, this is the knife at the throat of the Internet baby. "If you don't all pay up, we cut its throat." A disconnected Internet makes no sense of course.

The politics of this devolve to the comical. The CIX has about 59 members, but the board numbers five. Rick Adams of UUNET, Marty Schoffstall of PSI, John Rugo of NEARnet, Bob Collet of Sprint, and Susan Estrada, who used to be with General Atomic's CERFnet. She appears to be a board member sans network at the moment and we understand she wasn't actually at the meeting. Sprint voted against so it was 4-1 for. Basically, the CIX announcement was Rick Adams and Marty Schoffstall, in a move designed to crown themselves Internet Tsars. It was cunningly timed to correspond to the precise date when the NSFNet backbone is scheduled to be no more - November 1.

As to whether they get away with it, we can't find anyone who can actually say. If you ask how anyone was able to install two Cisco 7000 routers in a WilTel POP in Santa Clara and gain a choke hold on the Internet, everyone

will readily and instantly deny that it did, does, can, or is possible. The Internet is everywhere, and can survive nuclear holocaust actually of course. Fire or earthquake in San Francisco No problem. We'd never notice. On the other hand, if the mom and pop ISP's don't pay the \$10,000 ransom, will they still have full connectivity to the Internet? The answer seems to vacillate around the negative in varying degrees. The possibility exists that Rick Adams and Marty Schoffstall own connectivity - for the moment.

The problem is of course the low riders. If you are trying to provide Internet services in Durango, Colorado, the installed base of humanoids does not suggest the \$10,000 will be good for your health as a business. And if you are a little guy getting started, as Denninger did in Chicago with MCS at an initial investment of around \$5000,



you're basically shut out - IF the filtering is effective. And if no one calls the bluff.

On legal grounds the theory is bizarre but has a chance. It basically goes like this: If anyone has the money to call us on this one and sue us in court, or cause a ruckus on the restraint of trade issues, they probably have enough to not mind paying the \$10,000 - which is cheaper, and then they're one of us anyway.

On political grounds, it's even dicier. The remaining CIX members are in a terribly confusing position. If they don't support the move, and anyone can be an Internet Services Provider and be interconnected without paying the \$10,000,

why was it again that THEY had to pay the fee?

If they do support the move, the requirements for forming an anti-CIX seem to be two Cisco 7000 routers and a good line of shit about how CIX tried to steal the Internet. In fact, there is some evidence that already from WITHIN the CIX membership there is talk of doing just that. Basically, the belief system in connectivity is strong enough, that if anyone throws down a brass ring in the Arizona desert and talks four or five players into grabbing hold of it, the Internet just healed itself of Rick Adams and Marty Schoffstall, and it could take most of a week to accomplish it.

Worse, everyone might just ignore it and we would find the path routing toothless in the real world. No one seems quite sure just WHAT the route is for most traffic. Might work, might not. That would effectively end CIX.

So either of several ways, it was a risky move bordering on the foolhardy by Rick Adams and Marty Schoffstall. The one certain effect is that it will hopelessly alienate the "little guy." Their comments about hobbyists showed a profound ignorance of small ISPs, what CIX is, and what their position vis a vis the world really is. They are a hair's breadth from being stomped through the floor by IBM, Sprint, MCI, and most of the RBOCs, and their first official parry is to run off anyone smaller than UUNET and PSI and start fighting with them for quarters in the carpet.

Adams and Schoffstall are basically using the tactic that has always worked - point at Sprint, IBM, MCI, and anyone else "big" and wave their arms and whisper concernedly that there is collusion in government, conspiracies abound in the night, and that the giants will seize the Internet and - holy of holies - charge metered rates by the packet. We've listened carefully, and it is bullshit.

Yes, half of the Sprint corporate structure lays awake nights trying to figure out how to charge by the packet. Likewise IBM, GEIS, MCI, and anyone else in that industry with enough imagination to allow sugar plums to dance in



their heads. But getting there appears nearly enough impossible. For Sprint to gain any customers at all right now, they have to play the existing game - a monthly fee for access. If MCI wants in, they have to compete with Sprint. If anyone "experiments" with measured service, they would instantly lose market share to another major player - or even a minor one. Hell, most Internet users don't even KNOW what their usage is.

And it is competitive. Last year, the three largest advertisers on national network television were AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. It is very likely that within the next year, all 7 RBOC will be allowed to sell long distance service - and Internet access as well. PACBELL and Ameritech are actually designated NAPS already by the National Science Foundation. You can do voice over the Internet. We think it is going to break into such a catfight, that not only will Internet access be modeled about like it is now (cheaper but same model), we'll go so far as to predict in print something we said first in 1988, National Local Calling area. Within five years, you will be able to have telephone service at some flat monthly fee, to dial anywhere in the U.S. as a local call. I understand the suits in these corporations don't want that, but it looks like another gravity defying feat to avoid it. I'll go further. I think they'll all make MORE money than they do now when it happens. I'll go further yet. I think it will be the biggest stimulus to the REST of our economy our nation has ever seen without a war. And all seven RBOC, and the top 10 long distance companies, will all have to work nights to keep up with it.

Yes, I know about the studies. Wipe with them. There are natural rhythms to economics and human behavior and you can only hold things in the air in defiance of gravity so long - even by passing laws requiring the emperors clothes to be acknowledged as clothes. It costs no more to switch a call across Denver than it does to Washington D.C. Nada. We are accustomed to toll charges from a historical sense, and it has been preserved in a regulated legal environment. It will take an act of Congress to avoid prosperity in the future based on telecommunications alone.

As to little Ricky and little Marty - I don't know whether to admire the guts or pity the intellects at work here. Either way, there but for the grace of God...

The meeting of the full CIX membership at Interop September 14th should be a tremendous amount of good clean fun with free coke for the kids. I understand you can reach the membership at cix-members@cix.org (I just love this Internet stuff). They might note that the two Internet Service Providers with the greatest number of alternate non-CIX interconnections to other nets in the U.S. appears to be (drum roll - and the surprise) UUNET and PSI. They'll never let you do this to THEM.

Probable outcome? Divide the baby in half. Lower and more flexible rates for smaller ISPs - recast it as routing services fee, and take on more of a trade association/lobbying mission. Or they could throw UUNET and PSI into the street. Or start an antiCIX. Or bless it and hope they get away with it.

If the redundant duo pull this off, we look forward to a coronation ceremony. And the \$10,000 will be just the first shot. If they sell this, they can dictate every e-mail message on the Internet from here on out with the same "filtering" threat. I don't want the government to have that power. I don't want Sprint to have it. And I certainly don't want Little Ricky and Little Marty to have it. But it could happen. None of these people even know what the Fight-O-Net wars were. It's all new to them.

This may all be terribly intriguing, but what is disappointing is the total lack of vision that once again rears its myopic, if largely ugly head. These people think they have built a network, and are fighting over who gets to pick up the quarters out of the carpet. For the past 18 months, virtually every print publication, all television networks, cable tv, and down to billboards and bus benches have been touting the Internet. There are over 20 million people with modems with but a handful having ever seen it. Bill Gates (not THE Bill Gates - but the Microsoft Guy) is about to hand at least 10 million more of them a Windows with TCP/IP and PPP. They all want it or think they do. Picture 30 million 18 months from now.

Most ISPs are struggling under the load NOW. For all of you who can count past the ten wiggles on the end of your arm, note that this is NOT going to work. The only way it even has a chance, is if they go out and RECRUIT bulletin boards and commercial online services to do the necessary fanout. Not shut them out - recruit them.

So one final thought - and a clue if you will. A very disparate and unconnected group of people have been looking for a product for over 30 years that would work with a concept called "multi-level marketing." They've tried soap, they've tried motor oil, they've tried vitamins, they've tried cosmetics, they've tried stain removers, they've tried rubber kitchen goods. But they keep coming up against some astounding properties all these commodities share:

1. The more of it you sell, the less of it you have.
2. The more of it that's available, the less valuable it is.
3. It's very difficult to get your customers to sell it too.

And finally, at any impressive rate of growth, these pyramid schemes would very rapidly involve the entire population after just a handful of levels. Everyone would have to want it.

It just won't ever work....at least with soap....

Jack Rickard
Editor Rotundus

P.S. It can be a lot of work to decipher what's what in the Internet. It's all based on who can cook up the best verbal analogies for things that barely exist in real time. Gordon Cook is a kind of Rona Barrett gadfly of the Internet, trading in gossip, insider information, innuendo, off-the-records, and the occasional factoid dug from the bowels of the Washington Beltway. He's been doing it long enough now he's getting pretty good at it. But he does do a printed newsletter titled "The COOK Report on Internet -> NREN" on a monthly basis. Everyone at MCI, Sprint, BARRnet, BBN, IBM, ANS, PSI, UUNET, deride it mercilessly each month as so much National Enquirer yellow journalism, and then anxiously await next month's issue to club it to death again. If you need to be in the know on what's happening in the big boys club, you might want to cough for a subscription. Companies like these pay \$500 for the pain, individuals who talk nice to Gordon can get it for \$85 per year. We feature his latest missive offering a perhaps more balanced view of the CIX announcement. Reach him at cook@path.net.



Letters to the Editor

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Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 West Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123; by fax to (303)973-3731 or by e-mail to letters@boardwatch.com.

Jack,

I like Boardwatch. Quite a bit in fact. I have one itty bitty problem...This is a problem that seems to plague magazine publishers...Snail mail obliterated my magazine...Oh, to be sure, it was in a form that was readable when it got to me (barely) and it was only folded in 3 or 4 ways but I'm one of those people who collect the magazines they read. And this was definitely not in a collectable condition. I'd gladly pay an extra \$20 per issue to get it sent in some type of paper or plastic cover (yeah, i can hear the environmentalists hollering FOUL - FOUL - FOUL already but hey, i want my magazines in good condition).

On another note, Boardwatch is a great magazine for those that are running a BBS and for those that are surfing the net. How about a few suggestions or pointers to some excellent communications software for dialing into the net or a BBS. I've just switched to a PC recently (due to the death of Commodore) and I haven't been able to find a good comm package yet. I'm looking for one with scripting, phonebook, fast scrolling, windows support, multiple terminal emulations as well as multiple protocol support, and anything else that power users like in a comm package. If you have reviewed these in a prior issue, how about a new review or a pointer to the mag that contained it?

Dunno if you have read a magazine called Wired but it puts the magazine

online (via gopher and WWW) after the issue has been out for a couple of months. Any chance of Boardwatch doing the same? Need help doing it?

Thanks for listening,

Geoffrey@crl.com
Purple Duck Software

Geoffrey:

The reason it plagues all magazine publishers is that they all use the same U.S. Postal Service. Unfortunately, we have noted an alarming decrease in the quality of service specifically this year, with issues not received, received issues damaged, etc. far beyond the usual percentage of routine casualties we've been accustomed to over the past seven years. With this past issue we have added an outside protective paper cover to the magazine in an attempt to halt the assault at the post office. You ask little enough to receive your magazine in good condition. We are pleased to replace any issue that arrives at a subscribers locale in unacceptable condition, and do so at our own cost. But that isn't the point, you should receive it in good order the first time. We're also playing with some glues to see if that will keep the cover on a bit better. I'm hoping we don't have to go the titanium jacket route, but whatever it takes.

Actually Boardwatch was very early in the game of electronic distribution - available electronically in 1987. The first BBS that carried it was Adam Hudson's TURBO BBS, when he was developing a BBS package titled QuickBBS. We continue online with over 350 bulletin boards carrying our online edition. And it isn't a few months later - rather generally before the print magazine is widely available. We have back issues online going back to January 1988 on our own BBS at (303)973-4222 (telnet boardwatch.com).

In those days, Louis Rosetto, Wired's publisher, was doing a journal out of Amsterdam I think titled the Electric Word, and we exchanged publications for a number of years. Wired is now a couple of years old, hardly a pioneer in this industry.

Both Telix and ProComm have product in the wings that should be available very shortly, and rumor has it both are

pretty hot stuff. But QmodemPro for Windows probably has the hammer right now with regards to comm programs and is gaining favorable comment on a very wide front. It is inexpensive, and shipping, and we find it sufficiently powerful.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

While I agree that Tony Davis probably got a raw deal in Oklahoma City, his circumstances speak volumes as to the issue of illicit materials on bulletin boards nationwide. I am not personally offended by GIF files which anyone can access more easily in Penthouse than via downloading. But the community standards in some parts of "Heartland America" are much more straight-laced than here in New Jersey.

I would suggest a common sense standard for any BBS operator. If you can't buy the same material in a local retail store, don't post it on your BBS. If a BBS operator insists on selling CD-ROM's which are too close to the line of community standards, I suggest that they refrain from shipping the material within their own state. That should keep the local vigilantes off their case.

Thanks for a great magazine, I probably read more of it than any other of the computer mags.

Sincerely, Jim Bogart (JimNJ@aol.com)

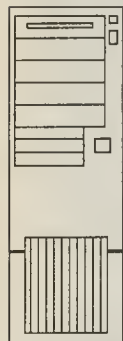
Jim:

As long as you can assure me that the vigilantes remain committed to pornographic images, I'll buy it. Of course, if they want to outlaw cigarettes, or take control of health care, or confiscate firearms, or give us all federal id cards, or...well you get the idea. The issue is of the dismissal of personal liberties in favor of government control. There is a strong body politic that sincerely believes we can eradicate evil, danger, and illness if we can just gain control of all these people walking around loose doing whatever they please. They are very genuine in this belief, which makes them not just entertainingly idiotic, but quite dangerous as well.

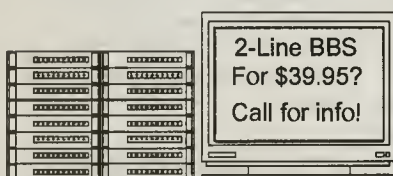
STOP losing time and money setting up and maintaining your online Information System. We have a team of professional system designers and programmers available to get your application online quickly and inexpensively. GW Associates has over eight years of experience helping customers with a wide range of online needs and the combined experience of over 30 professionals is available to help you bring your vision to reality.

We work with many excellent programmers. Tom Faulkner, President of BBS Consultants, Inc. has years of experience in custom programming and has done a considerable amount of work for federal government agencies. Based in North Carolina, Tom has installed and supported systems located all over the East Coast.

Toby Schneider is located in the Chicago area and has been responsible for many corporate installations in the Midwest. John Schachat is based in California and has installed commercial systems nationwide and has written some of the top enhancement software packages for TBBS/TDBS. Randy Harris has been working with graphic interfaces for years and creates excellent graphic based commercial systems.



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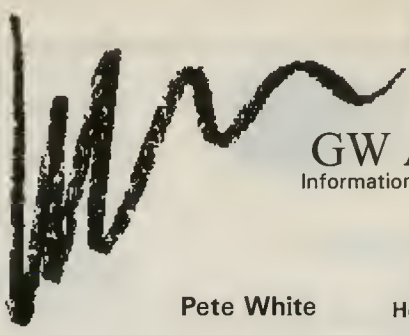
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THE BUSINESS BBS

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You cannot eradicate evil, but you can concentrate it in the state. A poor trade.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

It was nice to hear someone agree with my thoughts about a ONE BBSCON on the West coast (Gabe Wizard's letter in June '94 Boardwatch). I, too, am in San Diego, and being a high school student, I can't afford to go all the way to the east coast for a show. You should seriously consider creating one over here...unfortunately, you failed to comment when Gabe made the suggestion.

On another note, you made an error in the same issue when referring to GIGO. First of all, the filename you listed was GIGO0114.ZIP, which was a beta for 1/14/94. Since then, there have been one or two more betas, and now there is GIGO0524.ZIP, which is the latest. But that's not as important as getting the author's BBS name wrong! :) It's not the Record Place, but WME Online, AFAIK. And it is a wonderful program, putting aside the fact that it is not as pretty as doing Internet conversion directly into your own BBS software. But remember that some of us have relatively new BBS software (eg. Synchronet) that don't have direct Internet support...YET!

Rob Perelman
Rob.Perelman@CNB.Com

Rob:

Thanks for the update on GIGO. Any tool in the box that gets the job done is precisely the one I was looking for. And GIGO does look like a nice piece of work.

As to ONE BBSCON, it would be nice if we could have it everywhere. And electronically, we more or less can. But it has formed as the one time of year when we can get a few thousand of us together in one place face-to-face, for a different kind of interaction. Those who have come, have found it worthwhile. That of necessity drives us to name a location. For some near, and for others more of a trip. At this point, we have regulars from Australia, Japan, India, South America, Greece, the Middle East, and all over Europe. They'll be a little less

sympathetic to your plight. In any event, a West Coast ONE BBSCON probably will happen - we just don't know when at this point.

Jack Rickard

Dear Mr. Rickard:

Although I'm not a sysop, I purchased your magazine on a whim just to page through it. I will be sending you \$36.00 to cover the costs of a years script. Why you ask?

Boardwatch June "94", I read with great interest in Editor's notes on the poor soul that was given 35 years in jail for not doing anything wrong. What caught my interest was your views on the subject and have to admit, I agree with you 100%. We are slowly loosing our rights to freedom of expression, not to mention all the other rights we as citizens were given back in 1776. It's a small wonder why more people can't see this coming. Take for an example the laws on gun control. Everyone should know that we have this right but yet, We The People don't see this coming. I have a hard time believing that the national news media will not support gun ownership. Maybe this will open a few eyes for them. After we loose gun ownership it will be the right to freedom of expression and the press. What happened to Mr. Davis is a good example.

I also believe in what you wrote, "It ultimately means civil war and the eventual violent overthrow of the United States Government". Please don't get me wrong. I'm not a raving lawless lunatic, I'm actually a middle aged person with a family and a respected job as a Paramedic. I fear for the younger generation as these people will be the ones who will have to fight for our freedoms in later years.

So you still ask why support your magazine? Mr. Rickard, you have to be the most outspoken, gutsy, and down to earth person I've ever seen. As I read someplace else in your magazine, "Give'em hell Jack"!

Yours truly,

Mark A. Jacobs
wl-mark_j.-pcm@society.com

Thanks Mark. Actually, I didn't say Tony Davis had done nothing wrong.

And while I do think there are some issues of personal liberties that perhaps come into play, the editorial was primarily about a loss of perspective and priority when it comes to letting the punishment fit the crime. In this case, it had gone so overboard, it couldn't be about crime at all - rather it does become a political issue manipulated by the state. The police were involved in videotaping the "bust" to get it on evening television. It was a parody of our legal system and besmirches anyone who has ever been involved with the legal system as a profession. It is apparently OK for Ms. Bobbitt to axe the tally-whacker off her husband with a butcher knife and walk out of the courtroom a free person and a media celebrity, but it would draw 35 years for Tony Davis to sell a picture of the act, digitally encoded on a laser disk? We have a problem here that has nothing to do with knives, tally-whackers, or CD-ROMS.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I have been reading your magazine for some time now and have found no reference hardly at all to WWIV. In comparison with most software discussed in your magazine, WWIV equals or in fact surpasses about 85 to 90 percent of all of these other systems. If you have been keeping up with WWIV, you would realize that it is now capable of unlimited lines with its own multi-line chat system as well as just about everything else that those more expensive systems have.

In version 4.23, however, it does not have rip graphics as of yet, however, this is soon to change. WWIV is one of the most popular systems in the bbs community today and promises to grow even further! Its starting price is 80 dollars, which includes up to 2 lines as well as the source code for the software, which the sysop can do whatever he wishes with it. It is written in C, which is very simple to learn and can be used on anything else the owner wishes to use it on. The support is outstanding for it, as all any sysop needs to do is call any WWIV board on WWIVnet and simply mail 1@1 which is the author of WWIV, Wayne Bell. I would like to see WWIV represented more and I'm sure that most other WWIV sysops would as well.
Sincerely,

Brian Paisley
Sysop-The Lunatic Fringe BBS
Proudly running WWIV 4.23
1-9436@WWIVNET.TTPS.LAKES.TRENTON.SC.US

Brian:

As I say, any tool in the box that gets the job done. I'm not very familiar with WWIV and frankly, after a recent mail exchange with some of the WWIV sysops, that's a situation that it would appear I might be poorly served to remedy. But if it works for you, do it to it. We view software as tools, not a religion.

That said, I've always thought C was for girls.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

Well, I wanted to say that you have a pretty good looking magazine, and I always find informative information in each issue. Although I am disappointed in your Amiga coverage. At least one page would be nice!

As I read other mail sent to you, I wish I could say that it has all the positive effects on my BBS efforts. As it is, the information that I have been reading in you magazine may push me to taking the BBS down. Seems that the waters are a little shaky for BBS operators like me. With my BBS having well over 20,000 files, I find it hard to keep up with checking each one to see if this maybe a illegal scan/sample or copyrighted material. As it is, most of the files on my board are for other computer platforms than the one that I have.

Well, I will still buy my Boardwatch, I just may start looking at it from a user and not a provider view point.

Sincerely,

Jay Morgan
jam@m-net.arbornet.org

Jay:

The BBS community was pretty much an open range for a long time. I guess it is true that there are more legal issues regarding the operation of bulletin boards, and I fear there will be more in the future. It's rather the way things develop in new technologies. It happened with automobiles, airplanes, radio, television, and I can't imagine a

scenario where it would be much different in computers. I would hope to see it minimized in this venue, but the very nature of the people that want to operate bulletin boards in the first place rather precludes their organizing into any sort of political force to prevent it. The real issues revolve around the economics and how the government can get a piece of the action. Pornography will probably be the excuse, but ultimately that's what it is all about.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

In Boardwatch there is an advertisement for the "Internet Society." It gives no address or number to call. I was wondering if you could shed some light on the subject.

Waiting to hear from you,
Cody B.
code_man@linear.mv.com (Internet)

Dear Codeman:

The organizational infrastructure of "the Internet" underwent some changes a couple of years ago. One of the Internet pioneers, Dr. Vinton Cerf, along with a number of like-minded Internauts, helped organize the Internet Society (ISOC) primarily as a support structure for the continued operation of the Internet Activities Board (IAB) and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) to continue their good works in developing consensual standards on technical issues necessary for the continued interoperation of various operating systems and networks via TCP/IP, the domain name system, and various related communal internetworking technologies. (Biggest sentence in this issue - you can look it up.) I think it has rather taken on a promotion/cheerleading role for the Internet as well. We joined the ISOC during its first month of operation and continue to support it where and how we can. I've been most pleased at how apolitical it has remained, while at the same time providing information through congressional testimony, and of course continued to develop standards such as Multi-part Internet Mail Enhancements (MIME) and Privacy Enhanced Mail (PEM) and so forth.

Membership includes an excellent quarterly publication and is \$70. The Internet Society, 12020 Sunrise Valley

Drive, Suite 270, Reston, VA 22091; (703)648-9888 voice; (703)648-9887 fax.

Dear Jack:

I am very impressed with your magazine, particularly with the "Letters to the Editor" section. It's refreshing to see a commercial magazine 'really' open to a public forum which enhances interpersonal communications and our knowledge base. It follows the same principles that made Internet such a success story.

As we are heavy users of Internet, Unix, LAN, e-mail, news, etc., I thought you and your readers may be interested to know about our BBS operation and information services. At the risk of resembling a commercial advertisement, please read on.

We are a Dallas-based company with a unique offering and a special relationship with China. Our mission is to increase international trade activities with China and Asia through the use of Internet and networking technology. We have a direct link with a joint venture partner in Beijing who is the largest database company in China — one might say they are the census bureau of industrial information in China. They also feed us nightly proprietary news covering everything from soup to nuts in the commercial trade area. We also have a trade database of over 100,000 profiles of medium to large size companies in China, which represents over 90% of Chinese industry. Other databases include cultural, travel, state laws & regulations and many other subjects.

Internet users can access our headline news service and parts of our BBS free of charge — this represents 3 to 8 articles of key daily news events. Users can also learn about available databases, pricing and how to sign-up for full-blown China Daily news, database access and other services. Our services are available in the U.S., but we are expanding to other countries as our network grows in the Western world and Asia.

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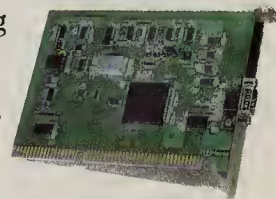
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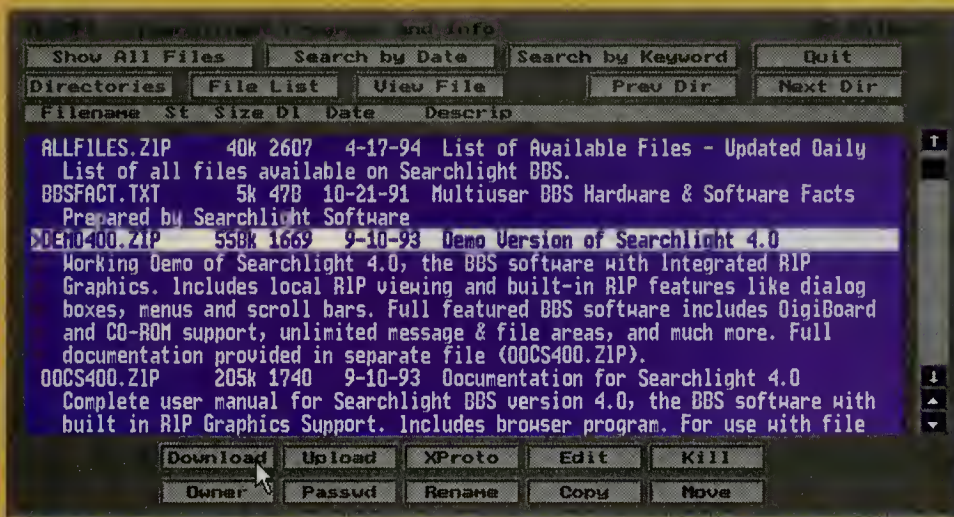
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Searchlight BBS...



Our RIP file manager lets you scroll anywhere in a directory...you can tag items and run commands by clicking with the mouse

When the first Bulletin Board Systems went online in 1978, graphical user interfaces didn't exist. Callers had to stare at text menus and memorize commands; there was no alternative.

Today, everyone prefers the dazzling screens that Windows and OS/2 provide...but most BBS programs still display the same drab, confusing text menus that the first programs did.

The information superhighway is full of exciting stops; no one has to call your BBS anymore. If they see cryptic text menus, they won't call back. You have to give callers the dazzling graphics and intuitive menus they prefer. That's why you need *Searchlight 4.0*.

RIP: We Show—Not Tell

The Remote Imaging Protocol by TeleGrafix gives callers the graphics and mouse support they expect; that's why callers prefer RIP. That's why BBS developers are scrambling to add RIP—and telling everyone that their RIP is "as good as Searchlight."

Well, talk is cheap—and seeing is believing. It's easy to see who the leader in RIP support is...look at our competition and keep asking: *"Where's the RIP?"*

Other companies love to tell you how good their RIP support is. But they hate to show it to you in their ads, brochures and test drives. They won't show you their RIP support because they know they can't match ours. Because nobody can.

The working scroll bars in *Searchlight 4.0* let you scroll through a message, file or directory list with your mouse. You can select messages, tag files, set options and run commands just by clicking with the mouse

Searchlight 4.0 creates RIP menus on the fly, so you can build custom menus in seconds. And *Searchlight 4.0* is the only BBS program that displays RIP locally—so you see the same screens your callers do.

We do RIP better than anyone because we've been doing it longer than everyone. *Searchlight 3.0* was the world's first RIP-compatible BBS. *Searchlight 3.5* was the first BBS that generated RIP graphics—the first to offer scroll bars, pick lists and "on the fly" menus.

Searchlight 4.0 is the *only* BBS that displays local RIP. It's the *only* way to give callers a true GUI with no proprietary terminal.

And 90 days after TeleGrafix releases the RIP 2.0 protocol, we'll introduce *Searchlight 4.5*—the first BBS program that supports it.

"Searchlight is doing a marvelous job incorporating RIP into their BBS"
Boardwatch Magazine
July, 1994



Our direct video support lets you run any text-based DOS program as a door

you won't believe your GUIs!

Improvise Without Scripts

If you want custom menus, some companies make you buy their script language and write routines in it. That's not customizing—it's programming.

We think our engineers—not our sysops—should write the code. Our menu editor lets you put any command (we have over 100) on any menu. You can nest menus 40 levels deep and add doors to any menu—even build executable menus that run lists of commands.

Then use our RIP styles editor to add buttons and wallpaper—we'll generate your menus on the fly. Or use your favorite RIP painting program to draw RIP screens...and let us put your menus on it.

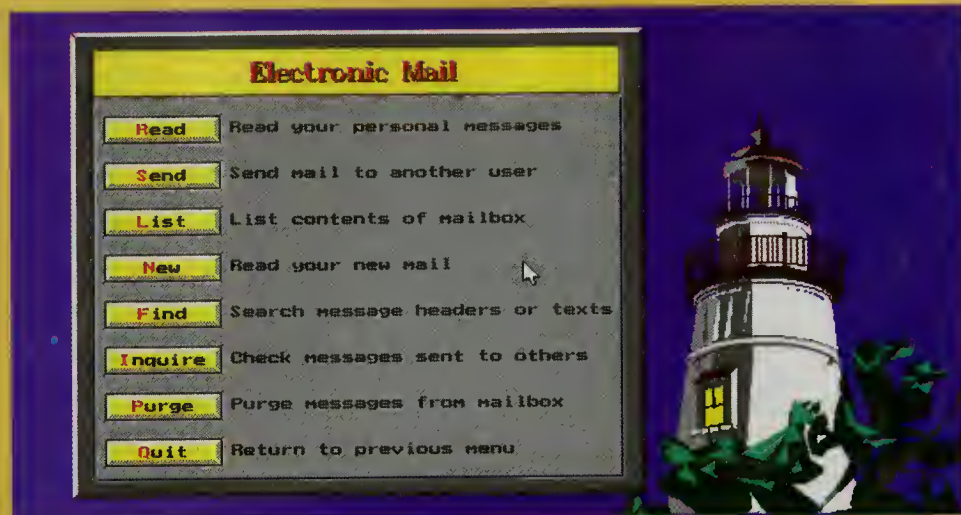
If you want a custom BBS, we help you build it quickly and easily. When you buy *Searchlight 4.0*, you can leave the compiling to us.

Open Any Door

A hobby BBS might want to add external programs ("doors") so users can play online games. A business might need to let their users drop to DOS and run a custom application.

Some major BBS programs can't drop to DOS at all. Others make you fiddle around with a DOS shell utility.

Searchlight 4.0's built-in DOS shell lets you run any text-based program (like FoxPro, dBase, Paradox or applications created with Clipper and Clarion)



The automatic menu generation in Searchlight 4.0 lets you turn any RIP screen into a custom menu

online. Just set a switch and forget it; we make running spreadsheets online as easy as 1-2-3.

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Callers love what *Searchlight 4.0* can do. Sysops like what Searchlight Software won't do.

We don't make "Digiboard" or "network" versions—support for intelligent multiport cards and LAN software is *free*. We support Internet addresses; just add your favorite mail utility. Tech support is *always* free; if you want more lines, we credit *all* your purchase price toward your upgrade.

And we don't want to sell you a terminal, so we include RIPterm (TeleGrafix's free, RIP-compatible terminal) with each copy, so you can help your callers "get RIPped."

So call for your fully functional demo of *Searchlight 4.0* now...and see why people say that we're not like all the other GUIs.

"Searchlight remains one of the easiest BBS packages to set up and use; it is also one of the least expensive"

**PC Magazine
June 14, 1994**

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applications, using TCP/IP and for outbound transmissions through Internet. Inbound transmits from China consists of nightly updates on news, e-mail, databases, etc. We plan to implement this same network scenario within the borders of China, thereby linking the two largest economies in the world for business-to-business electronic communications. As you can imagine, we still have some technical work to do on the Asian side. Although, considering our level of expertise and our contacts with 100,000 companies in China, we can be on the map in a flash.

If you are wondering about the language barrier, our technical staff in the U.S. and China are bilingual. Chinese-to-English translations are performed on trade databases and can be programmatically done on mail messages from China. Our translation experience also reaches into multiple language, multi-media presentations (image & audio CD-ROMs). Important features include the automatic cross-referencing of China National Industry Codes to the U.S. Standard Industry Classification (SIC) codes.

Aside from business reasons, we hope to play an important role in the increased development of trade, the reduction of our national deficit and the creation of jobs for Americans. Fortunately, U.S. trade interests are refocusing on China — with good reason. With a population of 1.2 billion people and a rising economic growth rate of 5% in 1993, we simply can't afford to ignore the China prospect.

According to projections by the World Bank, Greater China's net imports in the year 2002 will be \$639 billion, compared to Japan's \$521 billion. Likewise, by using comparable international prices, Greater China in the year 2002 is projected to have a Gross Domestic Product of \$9.8 trillion, compared to \$9.7 trillion for the United States. According to these projections China could become the largest economic force in the world. Our communications infrastructure and computer technology are the best in the world. Why don't we utilize technology and management as our main arsenal in the global economic war?

So come on board fellow technocrats, we have a lot to sell in the international trade arena. Exporting to Asia is not as difficult as you may think.

Lou Gallo

AsiaInfo Services, Inc.
2474 Manana Dr. Suite 121
Dallas, TX 75220
(214) 351-3091
lou@asiainfo.com

Lou:

It does sound like a thoroughly fascinating project. But if you want me to publish your "commercial advertisement" in our letters section, I would ask that you provide a modem number. Due to a little technical hurdle we've never quite broached, we can't "watch" you unless we can dial or otherwise connect to you.

Jack Rickard

Jack —:

I find Boardwatch so helpful, so informative—and so very well written. Thank you very much.

I could cite many articles I found especially helpful, but I must give you a special HATS OFF AND HEARTFELT THANKS for the April article, "Miracles in Toronto," about the Ability Online Support Network. Even my wife, who is wonderful but cannot find any interest in the BBS world, was deeply moved by this article, and impressed with the power and usefulness of BBSs.

With appreciation,

Bob McMillan
bob@mcmillan.com
Boonton NJ

Bob:

Ultimately the BBS world is a world of people. They do tend to have computers, but that's not why they hooked them up to each other. Have the Mrs. McMillan take another look under the bits and bytes.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I read your Editor's Notes in the June issue of Boardwatch Magazine with some interest. Although I sympathize with your feelings about our government, I was disappointed by the tone of your message. I've come to expect intelligent discussions about online issues, and not to see you running in circles saying, "The sky is falling on our personal freedoms!"

In your article there is no discussion of the laws concerning obscenity in Oklahoma. Although you could say that his decision was based on customer satisfaction, Tony Davis was successful without the adult titles. When Mr. Davis became a member of the new P.O.P. (Profit Over Principle) culture, did he research the laws concerning the sale of obscene material?

Using the justification that the titles were available in national publications, which you failed to mention includes Boardwatch Magazine, does not discount that they may violate local statutes. Child pornography is legal in some foreign countries, but don't try to use that justification to advertise it in your magazine. Jeffrey Dalmer will never again walk the streets as a free man. To dramatize Mr. Davis' plight by saying that he fares worse than a serial killer takes the focus off the real issues. I do not think that insanity or prior abuse should be allowed as defense arguments. You have to be somewhat insane to take the life of another human being.

But the issues in the Davis case are education and documentation. If Mr. Davis had walked into that court with proof that he had made every effort to comply with local laws, the result may have been different. I agree that search and seizure process was grossly misused in this case, and I believe this is the direct result of technological ignorance of most police organizations. Your writers have constantly stressed the risks involved with obscene material, risks that have been present ever since man has tried to put the label of "art" on the naked human form. To incur that risk, you'd better be loaded for bear when the savage beast of justice comes snooping around.

As a respected source in the online community, it is important for you to stay focused on the solutions to these issues. The April/May issue had a wonderful article on how to become a one person political action committee. Apply the same ideas to empower local BBS operators to educate local officials about their hobby, or business, of being a sysop. Open a channel of communication between the BBS and City Hall BEFORE the feces hits the rotating blade.

Why should we have to educate City Hall? If we don't, then we leave it to the local minister who needs some publicity for his congregation, or a politician who will convince everyone

Think Of It As The Fast Lane On The Information Superhighway.

QmodemPro for Windows by Mustang Software zooms past the competition. With no roadblocks in sight. This feature-filled, power-packed communications software makes it easy for Windows users to dial into BBS systems. It's the first program to support both data and fax communications from a single phonebook. With a modem that supports adaptive answering, you can receive both fax and data calls while in Host Mode, a limited-feature BBS program that lets you set up your PC to receive incoming modem calls. You can also send a fax directly from any Windows application using the QmodemPro for Windows printer driver. It's easy. It's all in one integrated package. And it's available now.

QmodemPro for Windows is the first Windows product to support RIPscript graphics, so you can plug into the thousands of BBSs offering graphics and full mouse support online. It also has more than 30 of the most popular terminal emulations, 10 built-in file transfer protocols including Zmodem, CIS B+ and Kermit, plus up to 40 programmable macro buttons. QmodemPro for Windows also lets you associate icons to each entry in your dialing directory, so you can create a true Windows phonebook. Each phonebook entry tracks up to 5 numbers, and groups of entries can be saved and dialed.

With QmodemPro for Windows, file transfers are made easy with features like drag-and-drop uploads from the Windows File Manager and live .GIF file viewing during downloads. The built-in .GIF viewer lets you zoom .GIF and .BMP files, or mark and copy portions of the picture to the Windows clipboard. You can put the Windows multitasking environment to work: use it to transfer files in the background while you work in your word processor or spreadsheet applications, or get in a few quick games of Solitaire. No other communications software does Windows like QmodemPro.

QmodemPro's new script language, SLIQ, gives you unparalleled power, speed and flexibility. With the AutoLearn feature, you can let QmodemPro record your scripts automatically without having to learn how to program. SLIQ scripts are compiled for fast, secure operation, plus we include a powerful script debugger and text editor.

QmodemPro for Windows also supports sound cards, so you can play your favorite .WAV file automatically when you connect to a BBS, and during other events like a successful fax transmission.

Whether you're a BBS beginner or a seasoned modem user, you'll find QmodemPro for Windows to be a flexible, easy-to-use communications tool, with twice as many features as competitive products. And at a better price: only \$99 retail.

(DOS version also available)

If you want to get on the information superhighway, don't get stuck in the slow lane. Move ahead fast with QmodemPro for Windows by Mustang Software.

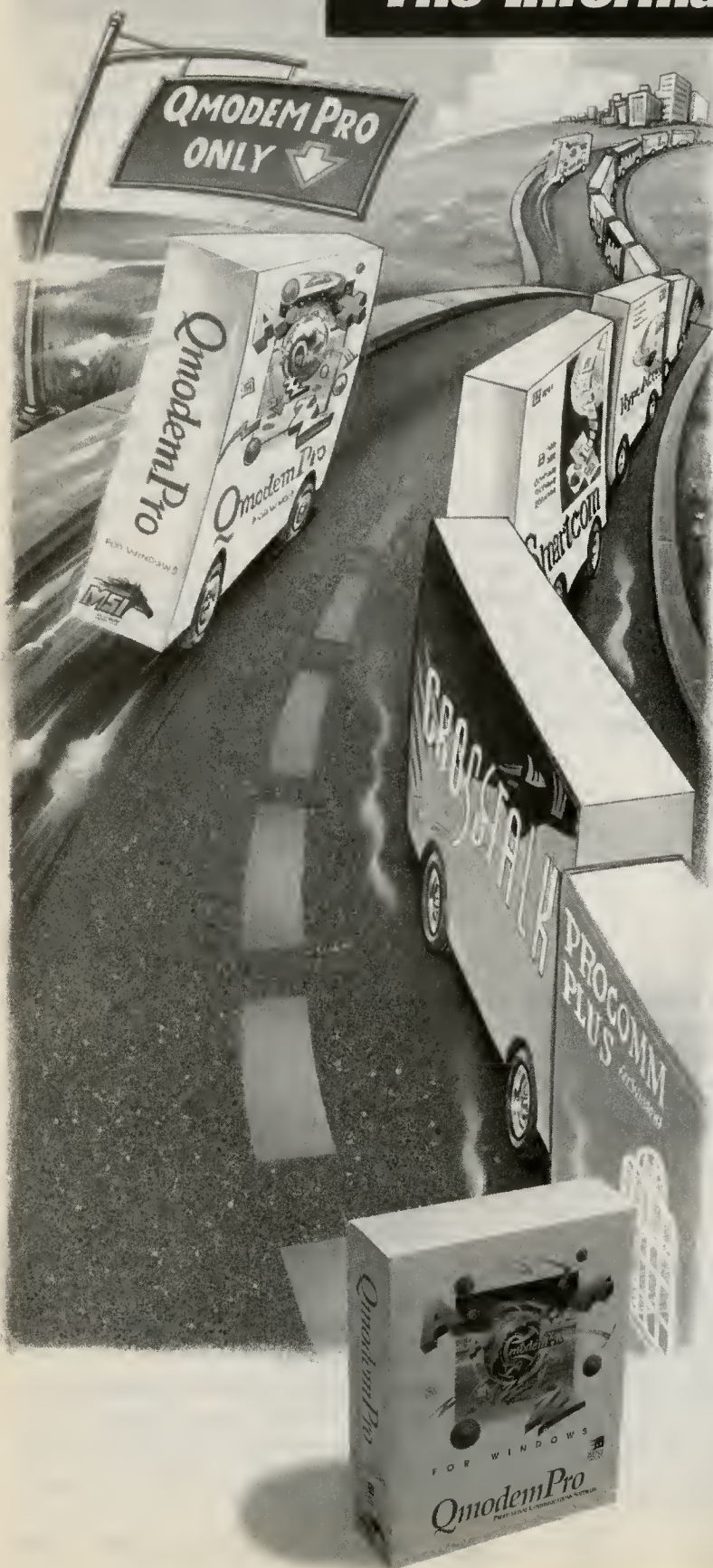
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that there is a gold mine out there waiting to be taxed. If we take an active role, we won't have to sit around and wait to get the label of victim, or prisoner, like Mr. Davis. Sooner or later some politician is going to figure out a way to tax the online community. I believe that the more we are involved with the education of City Hall, the more we will be able to influence the policies that are developed concerning the BBS community.

Democracy is not in its death throes. So get down off the soap box, roll up your sleeves, and start building a connector road between the Information Highway and City Hall.

Thank you for the most intelligent and thought provoking magazine that I have had the pleasure to read.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Scott
101 Morse Ave.
Groton, Ct. 06340
(203) 449-8879
scotty9999@aol.com

Paul:

We rather disagree. If justice has become a "savage beast" we have to be "loaded for bear" to deal with, you've made my point adequately in both clarity and cliché. I think I want no part of your City Hall.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

Just got my July issue of Boardwatch and just thought I'd drop you a note to thank you for doing a wonderful job with the magazine. Its really refreshing to read editorials that say things the way they really are and not sugar coat things.

I have been an avid fan of Boardwatch for some time. I used it as a tool to help find new and interesting things while being an on-line user. It was an indispensable tool in that endeavor.

I appreciated your candor and truthful facts about the state of on-line computing as well as the state of destruction that we face at the hands of our government. It takes guts to tell it like it is and not back down.

Now that I am a Sysop of a multi-node BBS looking to expand into Internet

connectivity and Satellite Backbone setups, your magazine has become even more important in our (The BBS) pursuit of accurate and untinted information. So much is this the case Jack, that all seven owners of the BBS have now subscribed!

What advice can you give to a person that seems to keep everything in line? Only one piece that I can think of - Keep up the GREAT work!!

Richard J. Sears
Sysop, American Dream Information Network (A.D.I.N.)
(619) 736-3702
rsears@crash.cts.com

Thank you for the kind words Richard. Very pleased we're with you on your journey.

Jack Rickard

The article "Jack In The Bean Tube" in the July issue of Boardwatch magazine reminded me of what one sees when perusing the smaller hobby and electronics magazines on the bottom shelf at the news stand - the quality of the photographs typically poor and the humor lame at best.

With all the steps forward that Boardwatch is taking each month, no need to take a step backwards.

Tree and tube humor aside, let me thank you for providing ongoing coverage of legal issues and case summaries of actions concerning and involving BBS operators.

Kevin Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@pop.com>

DigitalPopcorn Online * Los Angeles

Kevin:

Actually, we were talking about bailing on all of that stuff and doing the tree thing pretty much cover to cover. Those photographs were the best we could paste together on short notice, and the swing was a hit around here. This from the man from DigitalPopcorn?

Jack Rickard
Dear Jack:

Your Editor's Notes in the July issue asked why Laurence Canter was "pilloried in such a bitter and venomous fashion" after he advertised on Usenet. Hey, the guy spammed more than 5,000 newsgroups. Imagine if others

could follow Canter's example with impunity and splatter ads helter-skelter from Bonn to Melbourne. No one else has spammed the way he did or bragged about it to the New York Times. While Usenet carries ads, most by far are in the right areas.

Yes, Usenet may seem wild, but it houses many cohesive communities built around common interests. The denizens seethed when a virtual blockbuster invaded their neighborhoods with "Green Card Lottery" ads and promised more of the same.

This sense of community is evident in other ways on the Internet itself. PSI, now providing 'Net services to Canter, has taken note of Internauts' reactions and has worked hard to educate Laurence Canter about the economics of Usenet. He, in turn, has promised to call off the spam campaign he was planning. I find such give-and-take to be far, far better than a series of court battles. Certainly some editorials in Boardwatch, one of my favorite magazines, could help the efforts of companies such as PSI.

Meanwhile peace just might be at hand now that PSI has educated Canter. I myself, at least, believe that he has a right to be on the Internet as long as he doesn't abuse it. For a positive example of 'Net commerce in action, see the June 19 New York Times story about the florist who advertised in the right area, and who was flooded with orders from as far off as Japan.

In the future, many more BBS owners will be offering full 'Net access—and perhaps ad-related services such as the one that benefitted the florist. This model will serve us much better than ads distributed just by megaconglomerates. Nothing beats the potential of the Internet as a whole for BBS folks and other small business people seeking global markets. So, please, Jack, protect the 'Net and Usenet, which, of course, is also a staple in BBSland.

Such vigilance would be plain good business for you and your sysop readers, especially those charging by the minute. Most folks don't want to pay to read spammed ads.

David Rothman
rothman@clark.net
Former editor,
High-Tech Export & Import
703-370-6540

David:

So we could get more messages from David Rhoades on how to get rich by sending a dollar to the people on the list below? Where have you been David? There is all kinds of garbage spewed all over the net in horrendous quantities and some of it appears twice a week with the same tired message - not half as interesting as Canter's. What you had with him that you never had before was a real identity to go cream. This is the part I don't get. There are dozens of messages each week that go to 5000 newsgroups - and you don't say a word because they are anonymous and you can't do squat about it - and many are much more irritating than Canter's. Everyone acts like this was the first time it ever happened! Get real. Your quaint little communities are roach-infested, and actually the roaches were there first. To cop this holier than thou gig now is comical.

But I fear it is just the beginning. The decentralized consensual structure of the Internet lends itself to being held hostage by individuals.

The "pay to read ads" argument is as old as the hills and among a certain level of intellect, will always be popular. The point it misses is that one man's junk is another's treasure and always was. When you tap into a public network, you gain access to a certain amount of fascinating material, and a certain amount of detritus. You can avoid the latter by foregoing the former. If you want to regulate it, you have to first determine which is which, and then appoint someone who can reliably adjudicate which is which. And anything thrown out may well be another net users "information source."

Are you sure you're not miffed because you didn't win the Green Card Lottery?

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I just wanted to invade your E-Mailbox and maybe make a few comments and ask a few questions. I sent off for Boardwatch on or around 2 May 94. Although there was some delay in receiving some type of acknowledgement, it has been well worth the wait. The July 94 issue is fantastic. One

comment though, could not BW at least send out some letter or postcard of reception. There I was with a cleared check in one hand and no receipt (other than the check) and still even sadder...no magazine :

I am also more than a little interested in starting my own BBS. The Sysops I have talked to all seem to be less than friendly and very discouraging when it comes to advice on starting my own. I want to start a Windows BBS with some RIP and ANSI graphics (although I do not know exactly what either mean-RIP look great). Since I am only a computer novice it MUST be as simple as a child's toy. That includes installation and the works. I think that when I start college this August I can persuade the school to help out by adding some kind of school programs or something which will help them to get more students(i.e. right now i have'nt a clue). Naturally as your magazine insists, it must at least be able to support intermail and the like. What are YOUR personal preferences (if any)? I know you have lots of advertisers and I would not ask you to offend one of these. That is why I am asking for YOUR personal opinion. If you are able to do so (without getting sued) please give the BW opinion (if any) also.

I am sorry the letter is so long but after reading my first issue I can see I am not alone. Many thanks for your "down to earth-plain english" help.

Roger Wilson
Macon, Georgia
RDWFDR@AOL.COM

Roger:

Good news may be upon you. The air is extravagant with Clients and rumors of Clients, Servers and rumors of Servers, all revolving around the Windows theme.

We are currently looking at a thing titled Excalibur BBS. A very well done interface. We were a bit distracted by some extraordinary claims to multiline performance, but the visuals are just stunning, you can do a number of things simultaneously such as chat or write messages while downloading, and it is just beautiful. It's available in a beta version among about 1000 of the author's closest associates.

If Windows is really your game, Seth Hamilton of Hamilton Telegraphics

has made some hay over the past year with a product titled RoboBoardFX. But he's moving the whole thing to Windows and changing the name to MediaBase.

Softarc has done well with a Macintosh product titled FirstClass. Deep rumors would seem to indicate they are about to release some sort of Windows server and they already have clients for both Mac and Windows.

A lot of this will come to light at ONE BBSCON in Atlanta. But I think the sleeper topic of the last half of 1994 will actually be BBS software for Windows. Windows clients, Windows BBS servers, and just a lot of Windows all around.

As to what we recommend, that's a little hard to do. I don't mind offending everyone if necessary, but if the only tool you have is a hammer, all the problems start to look like nails. If a visual interface, easy install, and Windows is what you are looking for, these packages hold some promise.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I was wondering what you think about the myriad of people who start their quest from America Online, Prodigy, GENie, Compuserve and other small Online Services, seeking to find the pot of gold at the end of the Global Information Superhighway (Sounds like a term some bureaucrat came up with to confuse the masses.) only to find a mass of computer networks without the common interface that they were seeking. After they find this out, they become disenchanted with the Global Information Superhighway of their dreams and never find out about the wealth of resources out there to retrieve and downloaded.

Well time for me to log off and to read my reserve of Usenet Newsgroups that make my days enjoyable and bearable. Bye.

James Bryan
JamesBryan@Delphi.com
James:

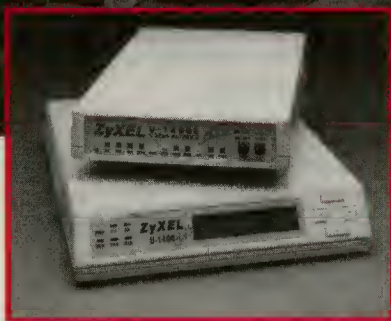
I think it's more of a journey, not a destination. We marvel at each pebble, in each brook, in each field, as we go. It's more about shady lanes, back alleys, and country roads, than about SuperHighways. We get disenchanted with the bills.

There Are Two Times When Modem Reliability Is Critical.

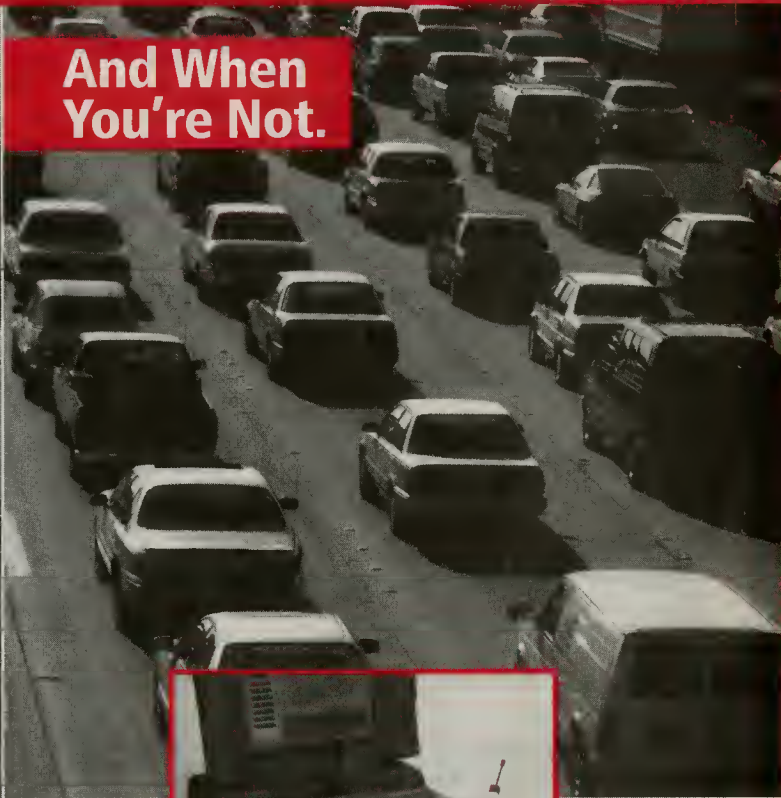
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ZyXEL desktop modems offer high reliability without high cost.



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The new ZyXEL portable — the first autoswitch modem for land and cellular lines.



Some modem users don't care if their data gets hung up, transmits inaccurately, or if they have to redial several times. Most modem users do. For them there's ZyXEL, the full-featured fax modem for serious users.

ZyXEL land and cellular modems get through where others fail. They're specially designed to overcome poor signal conditions on the physical layer with features like fast retrain and auto fall-forward/fall-back. This means ZyXEL modems connect the first time and continue to transmit data accurately at ultra-high speeds up to 19.2Kbps* over land lines (with DTE speeds up to 76.8Kbps) and 14.4Kbps over cellular networks. Fax speed is 14.4Kbps/V.17. It's the kind of performance you only expect from high-priced modems—but with ZyXEL it doesn't cost more.

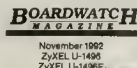
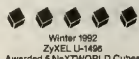
ZyXEL data/fax/voice/cellular modems have more features than other modems of any price — like digitized

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Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

Just a note to say that you have become a topic of conversation on the usenet group. alt.online-service A few writers wrote that they thought you were opinionated and used the letters forum as a place to beat your opinions into the masses. I thought to myself; so what is new?

Owners of businesses and editors of magazines have the right to say/believe what they do and the system of checks and balances is those who buy their magazines or buy their ads/services. Personally I like a little spirit in my reading material and you do that.

Boy, were you right on with your analysis of NVN. Who is NVN now is shut down.....way to call them, Jack.

Dean Hughson
dhughson@delphi.com
Host, Custom forum 56 Divorce
Support Board

Dean:

I am opinionated, and I use the letters forum as a place to answer letters. If we ever cease to be a topic of discussion in USENET, please let me know. That's when we're in trouble...

Jack Rickard

Hi Jack!

I've been considering starting a for-profit bbs rather than the traditional hobby board. I was wondering what is involved legally. Are there any regulations on bbs's? Any must-follow guidelines? What should I know about taxes, records, and billing stuff? What about privacy laws? Is there any reading material devoted to this topic I should be checking out?

I'd appreciate any help you and/or your readers could give me. Thanks alot and keep up the great work with Boardwatch!
Chris Williams
will123@gold.tc.umn.edu
St. Paul, MN

Chris:

Our own Lance Rose is author of a book titled SysLaw, The Legal Guide for Online Service Providers. You can get it from the PC Information Group

at 800-321-8285. I think you might find it useful. I would also highly recommend Alan Bryant's new book, Creating Successful BBS Systems published by Addison Wesley at 800-822-6339.

Jack Rickard

Jack:

I'd like to submit two or three columns (approximately twenty five hundred words each) on the sociology of cyberspace. Since our perceptions differ greatly, you are well within your rights to tell me to start my own magazine.

A few years ago I fell in amongst Libertarians on the WELL. I tried to persuade them to make their party electronic and put everything, conventions, candidates, position papers, the works, on line, letting the rank and file decide. I was surprised to learn they, to a man, opposed electronic democracy as you do. They feared a tyranny of the majority. I have no idea why you oppose it.

The Libertarians and I quarreled about the balance to be struck between individual and collective interests. They believe individual rights always outweigh collective concerns. They oppose mandatory recycling, zoning, every group effort to limit individual behavior. As we debated, Santa Barbara, California, caught in a severe drought, imposed draconian fines on individuals using more than their allotted water. One guy paid forty thousand dollars for a green lawn and the Libertarians thought that was great. Their philosophy is if you can pay for it, it should be yours. I said the town should have shut the sucker's water off.

Individualism, hierarchy, separateness, and competition are products of print. Reading and writing is a solitary matter, and we assume those who read more know more than those who read less. Literacy imposes the knowledge relationships that underlie hierarchy. All social positions, even economic class, reflect the collective conclusion that the higher ranked are smarter than those beneath them. We assume our bosses know what they are doing and follow them, often off the edge of a cliff.

Electronic media implies connectedness, equality and cooperation, but steeped in literary's understandings,

we apply yesterday's solutions to reach weird results. Is the author of a computer program entitled to more protection than writers of songs and books? I don't think so, but we sell blank audio and video tapes whose prime purpose is copying copyrighted materials. We don't object when someone borrows a compact disc from the library, takes it home, and copies it to tape. We reach a different legal conclusion when same CD is downloaded from a bulletin board.

This odd query letter is my way of trying to persuade you to reevaluate your basic assumptions, an especially grandiose suggestion since your assumptions are mainstream, but whatever your decision, you should concede that the conflict between individual and collective brings us down. Say, for example, Boardwatch generates toxic waste. To dispose of it properly costs three hundred thousand dollars, but you can dump it in some Colorado wilderness free. What do you do? When you see the tobacco industry join the asbestos industry in lying to customers and concealing unfavorable research, you should realize how corrupting unbridled individualism can be.

No obligation of course. It's just a matter of persuading yourself that something that goes seriously against your grain can be worth consideration.

Best,

EDKUNIN@DELPHI.COM

Ed:

Well, I do have my back up on this topic a bit, but if you read through Boardwatch, you'll likely find several views not entirely of my own making. In some ways, this diminishes our focus. In others I think it reflects the online community a little more widely. Striking a balance feels like the right thing to do. Feel free to submit one. If it's well written and has some basis in thought, it will likely be viewed favorably. If it isn't, it will join most of what I write myself in a little pile on the floor.

It's a hard trip.

Jack Rickard

Hello there Jack!

I just read the letter from Greg Evans and had to laugh. Yes indeed, Zoom is a bit behind their public schedule. At last years ONE BBSCON I gave Zoom my Amex number for as many 24000 bps modems as they would have available, whenever they would become available. In April I got a call from them asking if they had my address correct so they could ship us the INTERNAL modems we asked for. (How many internal modems do they think a PC can hold?). I told them "No thank you". We had ordered two Hayes modems in January, and got them only ten days later. A 144 and a 288 Optima thank you very much.

Zoom definitely lost out on the game. As soon as Hayes began shipping, the BBS community, especially the Fidonet Hubs, went crazy getting all the V.FC modems Hayes could pump out. I have my 288 on line three, my listed Fidonet line, and the line I make my outgoing netmail and Planet Connect calls with.

So nerts to Zoom.

michael.muller@treebranch.com
Fidonet **1:278/521**
ADAnet **94:7180/3**
Tree Branch Online Service
718 739 5845

Michael:

It's a hard business and used office furniture goes cheap. We face another autumn of disquiet with the scramble to introduce V.34 modems. If you stop and contemplate how different the world would be had we stopped at 2400 bps, it's a bit awe inspiring. We tend to cheer the winners and hiss at the losers. Perhaps we should occasionally applaud all contestants.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I would like to comment on what has become a very well known contest - the annual Boardwatch TOP 100 Readers Choice contest.

We at Lifestyle Online operate 76 lines on a single 486 computer using ORACOMM under OS/2. We are also the large beta development site for the upcoming OS/2 product. There is also a very good possibility that we will be the marketing end for Oracomm OS/2

which has all the powerful chat and download features from the original DOS product while taking full advantage of the OS/2 operating system under a complete system re-write.

In 1990 we started Lifestyle BBS which grew from 9 lines to 76. Every year we have participated in the Boardwatch Readers Choice contest by asking our members to vote. We operate our business based on honesty and it is very upsetting when we find that operators of BBS's are buying the 1 to 10 top positions. Case in point is the Odyssey BBS. They have 277 prizes they claim to be giving away including a 486 computer system. Their "Winners will be selected on a random draw from ONLY those valid entries who voted for Odyssey...". With this tactic, who would vote for another system if these terms were brought to their attention? Clearly, the more you spend, the higher your rating in the Boardwatch Readers Choice Contest. This is totally unfair and as a contest rule, should not be allowed. Although we typically rate extremely high by being honest, the contest rules allow one to buy a top position. As Boardwatch Magazine continues to grow, we look to you for an honest contest where the Top 10 BBS's are placed in their respective positions by the voters, not someone buying the votes.

Marc Kraft
President OnLine Technologies
PO Box 577
East Setauket, NY 11733

Marc:

I've commented on this before, but let me once again to take this opportunity to point out how grossly flawed this entire line of thinking is. First, there is nothing dishonest about it. It is a promotion for bulletin boards and they are promoting themselves. The contest rules are widely distributed, everyone knows what they are, and the contest is no more nor less than it purports to be. There is nothing whatsoever dishonest in the contest, our actions, your actions, or Odyssey's actions. As I understand it, you're complaining that 277 of their callers, our readers, got a little benny?

Secondly, you ask who would vote for another BBS? I don't have the final results, but I would bet they're not at the top. I'm certain we have other ballots for other bulletin boards. Probably 3000 systems were voted for this year among some 26,000 ballots. I am

perhaps not as cynical as you are about the fickleness of callers.

This is the whining, losing mentality that I find so abhorrent. If you want to play to win, do so within the existing rules. If you don't want to play at all, don't play. It's a simple popularity contest and I would be delighted if Odyssey taped ballots to the windshields of 10,000 Jaguar convertibles and gave them to their callers. It really reflects precisely how the world goes with or without a contest. If you get out and promote your system, you will prosper. If you sit around whining about how CompuServe has all the tv advertising money, you will be a loser. I'm very pleased that with a very bare minimum of rules, we have so accurately modeled the world, and allowed a spotlight on the winners.

It is a competitive business, as all good businesses are. At the top of the heap, the executives at Prodigy, CompuServe, and AOL all lie awake nights trying to figure out some way to offer callers something that will increase their market share. And this scenario operates more or less uniformly right down to competing single line hobby BBS systems in rural areas. This is the machine that gives us ever increasingly useful online services, at ever lower costs. The callers benefit, and ultimately so do the services. It's the American capitalist system at its finest. I'm in awe of it.

And you can usually pick out the losers pretty easily. They spend their time complaining about the system - rather than spending it figuring out how to deliver better services at lower cost.

Jack Rickard

CORRECTION

In the August issue of Boardwatch Magazine the BBS number of the Infinity BBS was incorrectly identified. The correct number is: (619)728-8878

Upgrading Your Modem...



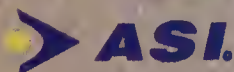
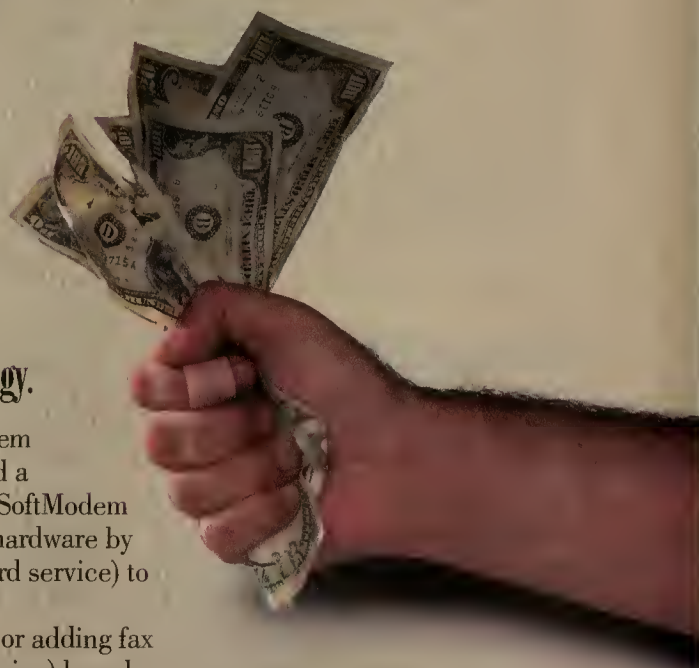
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This Month's Specials

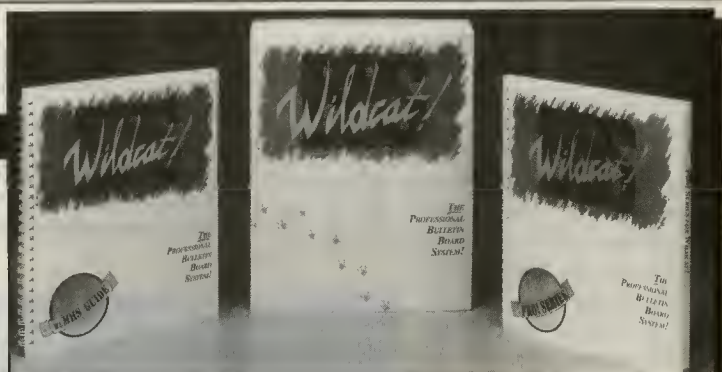
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HAYES ANNOUNCES V.34 MODEMS

In the wake of the June 9 approval of the V.34 standard, Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc., announced plans to provide high-speed data and fax modems supporting both ITU-T V.34 standard and the V.FC interim industry standard for 28.8 kbps transmission. Hayes also announced upgrade plans for its existing V.FC customer base.

"Right now everyone is focused on modem modulation because of the recent ITU-T vote," said Hayes President Dennis C. Hayes. "What the industry needs to focus on is not only the new standard but also on issues such as managing the transition to V.34, support of the current 288 installed base as well as the speed and performance of modem application."

Hayes estimates total sales of V.FC modems at one million units, and claims more than 4,000 bulletin board lines support V.FC modulation using Hayes modems. "V.34 is more complex than any previous modem specification and it has taken longer than anyone expected to define the standard. Interoperability of different implementations of the standard may be a problem for the first few months of availability," added Hayes. "Because of the large installed base of V.FC modems and initial concern about V.34 interoperability, users should ensure that their 288 modems support both V.34 and V.FC."

For the first 90 days after Hayes begins shipping V.34/V.FC modems, Hayes is offering to upgrade previous purchasers of OPTIMA 288 V.FC+FAX and ACCURA 288 VC+FAX to the new V.34/V.FC for \$49. Hayes will provide FREE upgrades to all BBS operators who obtained their product through the Hayes Sysop program. The upgrade will involve returning the modem to Hayes. Hayes will upgrade the modem and ship it

back to the customer the same day. For customers using modems in mission-critical applications, Hayes is offering a "hot-swap" program. Hayes will pre-ship V.34/V.FC modems and the customers will then return the replaced models. Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc., PO Box 105203, Atlanta, GA 30348; (404)840-9200 voice; (404)441-1213 fax; 800-USHAYES BBS.

BOARDWATCH 100 READERS' CHOICE CONTEST RESULTS

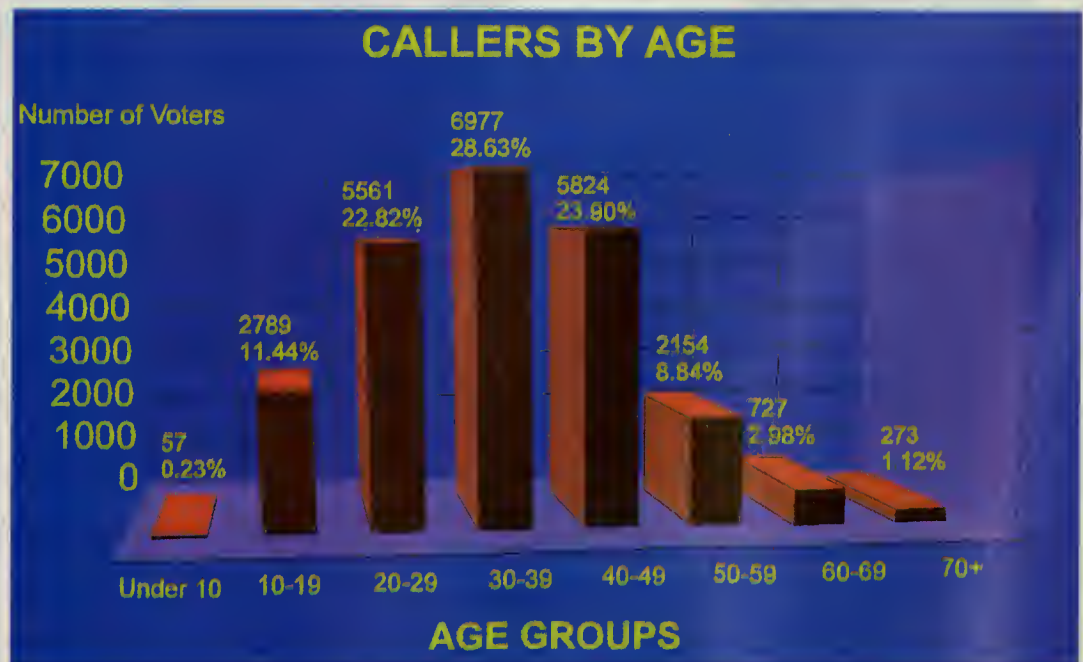
The voting period for the Boardwatch 100 Readers' Choice BBS Contest ended June 30, 1994, with some 26,015 ballots received by mail, fax, or entered on our BBS. And we've spent nearly a month since then tallying the results. In this issue, we present the 100 bulletin boards receiving the greatest number of ballots, ranked in order from that receiving the greatest number of votes to the least. Over 3000 bulletin boards were nominated by our readers this year.

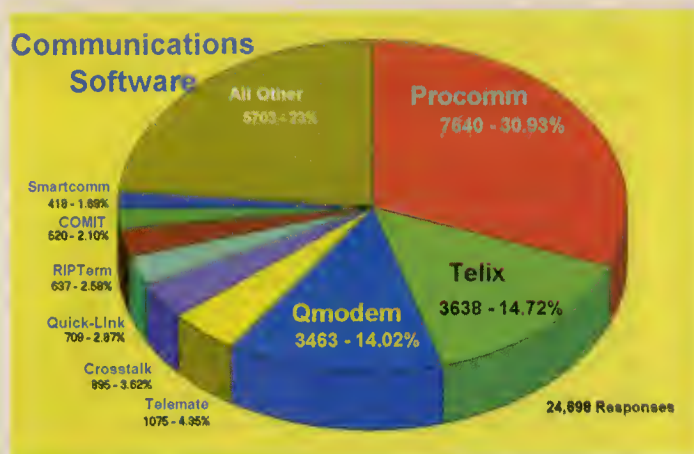
The contest runs from January 1 through June 30 each year and is deceptively simple. Those bulletin boards receiving the most ballots win. No voter can vote more than once, and the BBS operators are barred from handling completed ballots in any way.

Beyond that, there is nothing much in the way of a rule set to follow. It's a bit of a free for all beauty contest, and a chance for our readers to tell us what they think is important in a BBS, and note those systems deserving of recognition.

Most of the actual prizes go to the callers. At ONE BBSCON this August 18th, the top 10 BBS systems will get a trophy, and twelve voters will be drawn from all who cast ballots by representatives from Hayes Microcomputer Products, U.S. Robotics, and ZyXEL USA. Each will receive a top-of-the-line modem from the company that draws their name.

The bulletin boards do get some free advertising space in Boardwatch Magazine, and we do publish the list of the Top 100 systems somewhat widely. The contest probably picked up a little in urgency this year due to a new aspect we inadvertently threw into the game. Boardwatch has grown now to some 90,000 circulation largely due to word-of-mouth. Well...electronic word of mouth anyway. Early in 1994 we kicked around the idea of a direct mail campaign, much after the fashion of a "real" magazine. So we came up with the idea of sending out a solicitation for subscriptions that included the Top 100 list from last year in a kind of foldout poster. The line of thinking was that it did cost a bit to mail out these direct mail pieces, they probably wouldn't





work, and the net effect would be to smear a lot of ink on crushed trees and have postmen carry them around a lot. If we made a nice poster with the Top 100 on it, at least the junk mail recipient would have a list of bulletin boards to dial even if they didn't subscribe. It's the kind of goofy thinking that lets the Ziff brothers sleep easy knowing we're still stumbling around lost in the dark.

Actually, the direct mail program produced a surprisingly encouraging response, so we mailed a few more than we had originally planned. Maybe half a million more in the space of a couple of months. The result was an unexpected PR windfall for the bulletin boards on the 1993 list. Apparently a few of them caught on to the gig after the calls started to come in and they campaigned pretty hard toward the end of the contest to make sure they made the 1994 list. Probably not a bad strategy. We'll probably send out somewhere between six and ten million of them in 1995.

This is the first year we've had significant participation from the larger commercial networks. We have

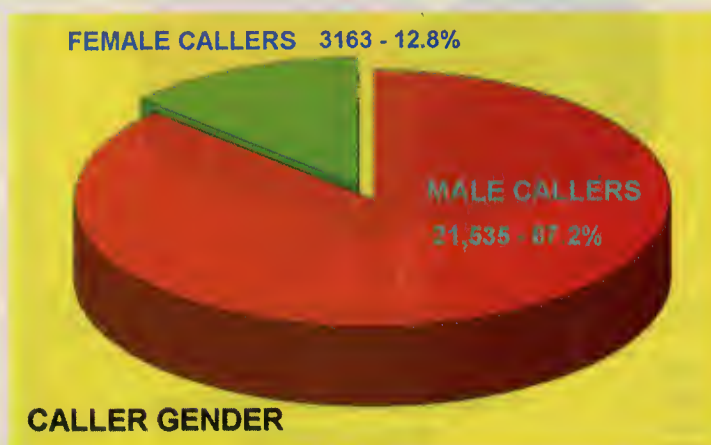
like a sysop as well. Prodigy's Genealogy BBS scored particularly well this year and made it into the top 10. This is a little awkward in that we're not sure what telephone number to list against it - they have about 40,000 nodes around the country.

One of the things this contest provides is an interesting data set depicting the makeup of the BBS caller population. We don't collect this for any clandestine or nefarious purpose, but rather to get a snapshot of the world of BBS callers. Since this survey is made up entirely from those who have "volunteered" themselves via ballot, it lacks a bit in statistical credibility, and we would calculate the margin for error somewhere in the neighborhood of plus or minus 1500%. But it is the largest sample of such data collected anywhere in the world to our knowledge, and thereby probably provides as good a number set as is available, and our readers and the contestants

allowed ballots for a particular BBS or forum on the larger systems, just not ballots for the system itself. Most of these forums share virtually all the aspects of a BBS, and in most cases are moderated by an outside individual that looks and acts

enjoy a peek at the totals. Note that not every voter answered every question, and some of the answers that were supplied were a bit ambiguous. So the total used to calculate percentages varies a bit from question to question in the results.

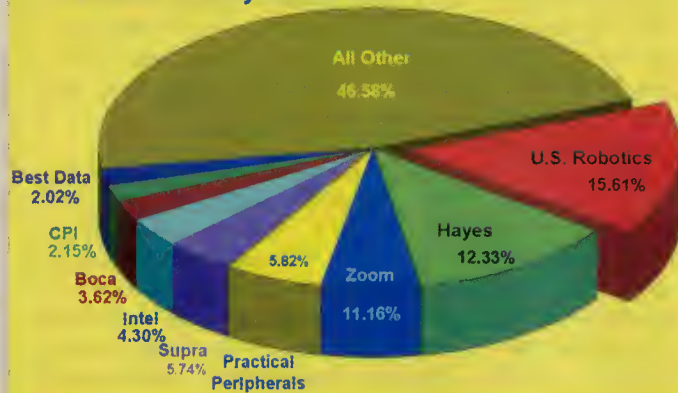
One of the questions asked involved the operating system used by the caller. The results were pretty predictable. The rumor of the death of DOS remains a bit premature with some 11423 voters or a little over 46% noting it was still on their personal computer somewhere. But Microsoft Windows, be it operating system or application, persuaded some 10346 or nearly 42% of the voters to note its use. The rest of the pack weren't actually close. The Apple Macintosh did appear with 1380 ballots - a little over



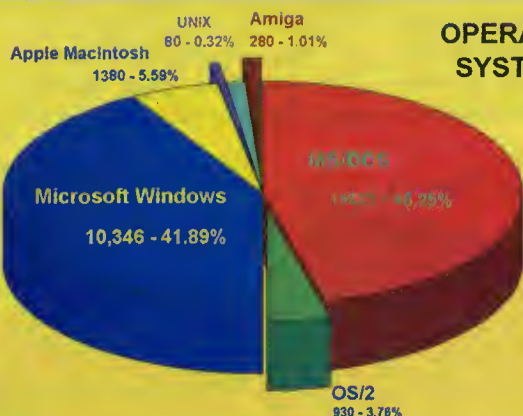
five and a half percent, with IBM's OS/2 still searching for life at 930 ballots. Amiga and UNIX tallied - but not noticeably. The average age of a BBS caller dropped nearly two years to 36 years old. The voters indicated they make some 57.92 calls monthly on average - a very active group of online aficionados, with an average call duration of 33.67 minutes. Since some 6561 or 27% of them indicated that a call to the BBS they nominate as their favorite required a long distance or toll call, this would indicate a pretty heavy flow of ducats to the long distance companies.

Another relatively new question we asked regarded the caller's total investment in their computer system. I was a little uncomfortable asking this, and now that we know, I'm not sure why we wanted to know. I suppose it was to gauge how serious

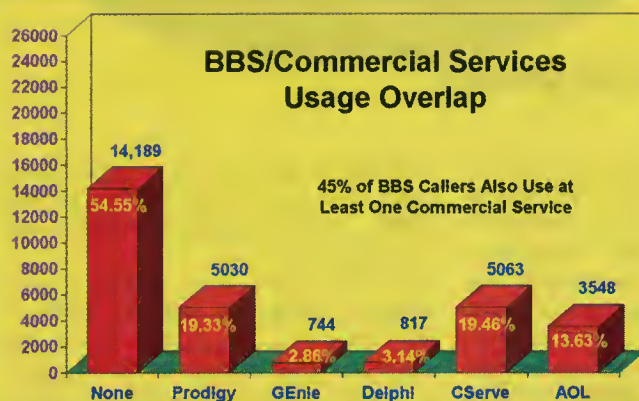
Modem Use by Manufacturer



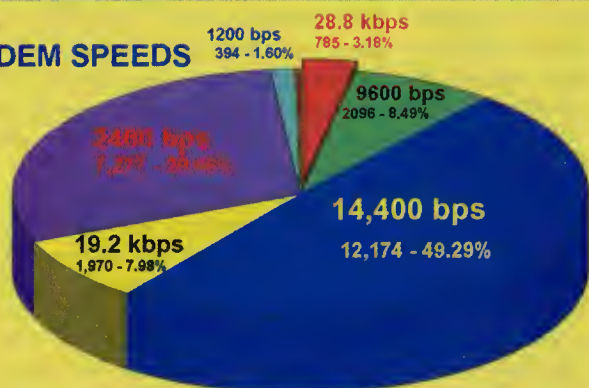
OPERATING SYSTEMS



BBS/Commercial Services Usage Overlap



MODEM SPEEDS



people were about this little area of their lives. They seem to average about **\$4780.83** in serious. Notable mostly in that you could easily pick up a computer and modem for **\$700-\$800** these days.

One of the most interesting questions we asked, I think, is whether or not the caller also had accounts on and used a series of five popular if pricey commercial networks such as CompuServe, Prodigy, America Online, Delphi, and GEnie - check all that apply. We had never seen anything depicting the overlap between BBS callers and subscribers to the larger services, and we wanted a peek. If this "factor" of commonality became a known thing, a number of ways to check one set of numbers from one industry group against a second set from another origin becomes plausible. But we were surprised to learn that some 11,826 callers - over **45%** do. This is much higher than we expected. Even better, it would appear that some of them are on more than one such service. Indeed, 36 callers claimed to be on all five online services.

CompuServe leads the pack with some 5063 subscribers from among our test group. Prodigy was essentially tied with them though at 5030. Note that Prodigy did mount a pretty good item on their service urging their callers to vote - reflected in a very credible showing of some of their BBSs on the Top 100. AOL had some 3548 ballots while Delphi and GEnie were proportionately less involved. Delphi has apparently done well with their Internet gambit and seems to have surpassed GEnie in most ways that count.

We also tried to take a wag at what people do online. A series of checkboxes next to what you think they do is not very good surveying practice. But we did it that way. File Downloading certainly led the pack with some 18,219 people claiming that as their raison d'être. Mail came in second at some 14,230. Playing games and accessing news services seems to be about on par with each other with games at 11,835 and news at 11,519. Chat may be a hot segment, but on the list of things to do it trailed at 9,288 ballots. It would appear that file sucking and e-mail are still pretty big in BBSland.

On terminal programs, Procomm continues its domination at **30.93%** of the total. In the 1993 contest they had **31.64%** of the market - surprisingly stable market share. Telix and Qmodem are essentially in a battle to the death with Telix running some **14.72%** and Qmodem right behind them at **14.02%**. Last year Telix was dominant at **22.99%** to Qmodem's **13.79%**. The rest of the pack was significantly off the pace with Telemate, Crosstalk and Quicklink holding the same positions as last year. The surprise was a seventh place showing for RIPTerm, a non-contender in the past but garnering some 637 ballots this year.

The ladies may have made some gains, but not much. Last year dialers of the gentler persuasion comprised **11.74%** of the population. This year they climbed to **12.8%** - more than a percentage point but not enough to make it an even game. Since dialing a modem requires little in the way of heavy lifting, we're still a little lost as to why this number isn't moving strongly toward equity,

but it appears to be pretty stable from year to year.

In the modem world, U.S. Robotics has done very well with their Sportster over the past year. They trailed Hayes in the '93 contest but this year took it going away with 3803 USR models to the 3004 from Hayes. Zoom held to its position in third place with 2718 and in fact Practical Peripherals and Supra maintained their positions relative to the others as well. The winner comparing 1993 to 1994 seems to be Intel. It held position 9 on the '93 stats but moved to sixth in 1994 with 1047 voters noting its use.

Modem speeds continue a very predictable advance. Last year less than 32% of callers had the 14.4 kbps modems but over 49% sported them a year later. We didn't even list the 28.8 kbps modems last year as they really didn't exist until November of 1993 but 785 of our voters have them online for the '94 count. There was also some growth at 19,200 bps and we're not sure why. Few modems have touted 19,200 bps as the rated speed but about 8% of our voters checked the box. The 2400 bps crowd was almost exactly half the universe in 1993 but in 1994 less than 30% found that data rate sufficiently impressive to prevent them from upgrading to 14.4 kbps.

With regards to caller age, the 30-39 age group remains the dominant one with 6,977 or 28.63% of our voters falling into that bracket. The 40-49 group followed at 23.9% and 20-29 in the third spot for 22.82%. We can say that almost exactly 75% of those online are between 20 and 49. But we were a bit surprised to learn that EXACTLY 1000 of our voters were 60 or over with some 273 of those actually age 70 or more. The concept that older people are avoiding the use of personal computers just doesn't appear to hold water. It's a nice theory, but there were enough of them in this contest to hold their own convention.

In this issue we do present the complete list of the 100 bulletin boards receiving the most ballots. Additionally, our Direct Dial section features individual stories on each of the top 10 systems. Congratulations to all and our thanks for participating in the contest again this year.

REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC

by Tom Koltai

ULTRACHAT DOWN UNDER

Australians have taken to eSoft's new Ultrachat product with a vengeance. Since Ultrachat has arrived in Australia, TBBS Buletin Boards have been negating state borders and thousands of miles of wilderness by Linking across the country.

Using an Internet backbone, Ultrachat has allowed people to argue the merits of State Football games, politics and of course, the weather in a nationwide forum that is confusing for first time "chatters" but freindly nevertheless.

1990 Multiline BBS in Perth has Linked to Kakadu Konnection in Darwin whom in turn has acted as a hub for Oracle BBS in Adelaide and Comon Ground BBS. We hope shortly to add Dr. Blaze BBS in Melbourne and 500CC BBS in Sydney.

The latest development is overseas visitors, telneting to 192.94.208.15 Logging in as "kk" with password of "kk" and linking into our "Ozlink" chat sessions. Current developments in Australia include a link to the Internet IRC (Internet Relay Chat) and we are working hard to tie in the Hyper10 TDBS program from Daniel Lykes that emulates WWW (Internet World Wide Web), so that users can access information about linked TBBS systems in a hypertext format.

AARNET News

In other developments, the AARNET (Australian Academic Research Network) has decided to implement a charging model on the Internet in

Australia. This means that from January the first, 1995, every byte of overseas and interstate information will cost between one to two dollars per megabyte.

Detractors of this scheme are those that would like everything handed to them on a silver plate, by a Butler, for free. Traffic from Australia may slow a tad during early 1995, but we expect a firm upswing in commercial connections with an accompanying bandwidth expansion paid for by the new charging model.

To overseas users, this charging means that you may see some anonymous ftp sites shut down their servers within Australia. (The charges will be on two way traffic.)

EFA

Electronic Frontiers Australia has at last been inaugurated and is currently in the midst of a membership drive. Started by a dedicated few Electronic Freedom Foundation advocates, The EFA's basic objectives are:

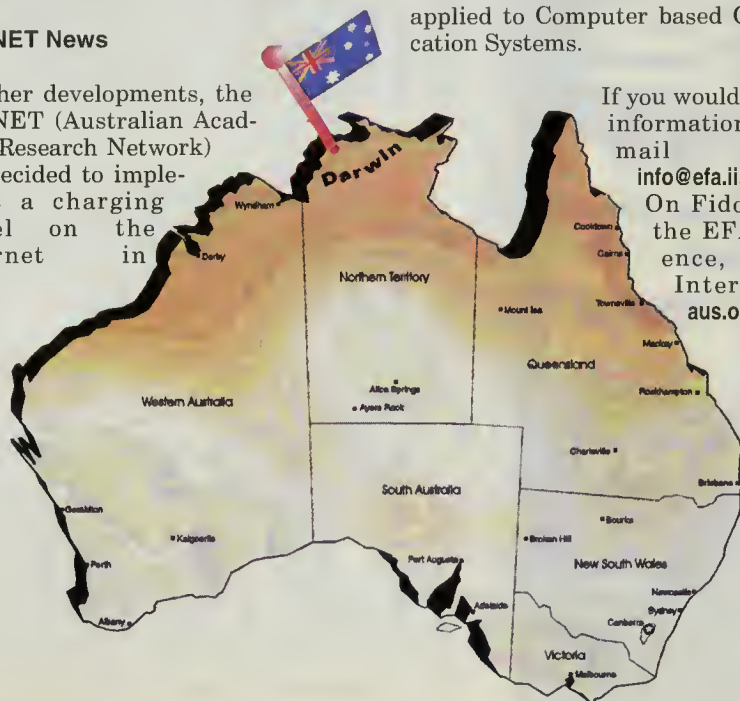
To ensure that people have the same basic freedoms within computer based communications systems as without.

To educate the community at large about Computer Based Communication Systems (CBCS) and their use.

To support, encourage and advise on the development and use of CBCS (and related innovations).

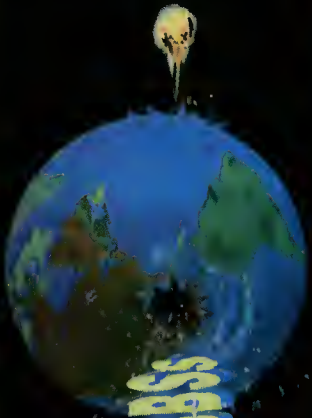
To Research and advise on the law as applied to Computer based Communication Systems.

If you would like more information, send e-mail to info@efa.iinet.com.au. On Fidonet, join the EFA conference, on Internet, it's aus.org.efa. The



BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE READER'S CHOICE BBS CONTEST

THE TOP 100 BBS



NASA: BOARDWATCH/LEVY-9

IN ORDER OF NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND JUNE 30, 1994 - 26,015

PLACE	TITLE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SOFTWARE	LINE	OPERATOR	LOCATION
1	Software Creations	508-368-7139	The Primary Source for Entertainment Software	PCBoard	134	Dan Linton	Clinton, MA
2	EXEC-PC	414-789-4360	Largest dial up BBS for shareware software.	Custom	280	Bob Mahoney	New Berlin, WI
3	GLIB	703-578-4542	Gay & Lesbian information, Internet email, live chat	TBBS	23	Jon Larimore	Arlington, VA
4	Monterey Gaming System	408-655-5555	Custom interactive gaming and multi-user conferences	Custom	32	David Janakes	Monterey, CA
5	Blue Ridge Express	804-790-1675	Large files base with 3 Gigabytes and CD-ROMs	RBBS	36	Webb Blackman	Richmond, VA
6	Deep Cove BBS	604-536-5885	News, publications, internet email, shareware, games	TBBS	33	Wayne Duval	White Rock, BC
7	AlphaOne Online	708-827-3619	Adults only, matchmaking, personals, shareware	TBBS	18	Gloria La Hay	Park Ridge, IL
8	America's Suggestion Box	516-471-8625	13 Gigs of Shareware, Internet email, Usenet newsgroups	TBBS	16	Joe Jerszynski	Ronkonkoma, NY
9	Lifestyle Online	516-689-5390	Chat system, adult lifestyles, personals, email	OraComm	74	Marc Kraft	East Setauket, NY
10	Prodigy Genealogy	800-775-7714	Information and help of searching for people	TFP	40000	Mark Rivas Sachs	UXJF71A
11	Chrysalis	214-690-9295	34 CD-ROMs online, Internet email, online publications	TBBS	64	Garry Groose	Dallas, TX
12	Pleasure Dome BBS	804-490-5878	Adults only, matchmaking, Internet email, online games	Wildcat!	10	Tom McElvy	Virginia Beach, VA
13	INDEX System, The	404-924-8472	Online publications, BBS lists, Internet email, chat	TBBS	32	Rodney Aloia	Woodstock, GA
14	Pennsylvania Online	717-657-8699	Internet accounts, 10 Gigs online, FidoNet IC	TBBS	16	George Peace	Harrisburg, PA
15	Springfield Public Access	413-536-4365	4000 Usenet newsgroups, 8 CD-ROMs, family BBS	TBBS	24	Matthew de Jongh	Springfield, MA
16	OS/2 Shareware	703-385-4325	OS/2 support and shareware files	Maximus/2	18	Pete Norloff	Fairfax, VA
17	DSC	215-443-7390	Full Internet, Internet accounts, full Usenet	PCBoard	100	Jon Brandt	Ivyland, PA
18	Wizard's Gate BBS	614-224-1635	No fees, full access on first call, 12 Gigs online	SHS	10	Joe Balshone	Columbus, OH
19	Aquila BBS	708-820-8344	Illinois's largest filebase, message base	PCBoard	42	Kevin Behrens	Aurora, IL
20	Nashville Exchange, The	615-383-0727	Internet, Usenet, FidoNet, shareware, online games	TBBS	34	Ben Cunningham	Nashville, TN
21	deltaComm Online	919-481-9399	Distribution & support for Telix	PCBoard	15	Zack Jones	Cary, NC
22	File Shop BBS, The	816-587-3311	US & World News, Stock information, full Internet	RA Pro	28	Walt Lane	Kansas City, MO
23	Traders' Connection	317-359-5199	Largest classified ad database, national access	Custom	67	Carson Hanrahan	Indianapolis, IN
24	PC-Ohio	216-381-3320	Large message base, shareware, ads	PCBoard	25	Norm Henke	Cleveland, OH
25	Father & Son BBS	610-439-1509	General BBS, messages, files, chat, email	Wildcat!	25	Dale Lloyd	Whitehall, PA
26	MicroFone InfoService	908-205-0189	Since 1982, online games, Internet email	TBBS	24	John Kelley	Metuchen, NJ
27	Doctor's Office, The	703-749-2860	9 Gigs online, chat, messages, games, matchmaker	Falken	32	Ron Walters	Vienna, VA
28	ExecNet Information Systems	914-667-4066	Internet, Usenet, shareware, adult area	PCBoard	20	Andy Keeves	Mt. Vernon, NY
29	City Lights	612-633-1366	5.7 Gigs, 35,000 files, 100 online games, echos	Wildcat!	9	Brian Eifer	Arden Hills, MN
30	File Bank Inc, The	303-534-4646	Large shareware system, chat, Internet email	TBBS	22	Brian Bartee	Denver, CO
31	Starship II BBS	201-935-1485	National 800 access, 10 Gigs online	TBBS	32	Phil Buonomo	Lyndhurst, NJ
32	Network East	301-738-0000	120 online games, Usenet, Internet, shareware	PCBoard	32	Howard Hartman	Rockville, MD
33	Atlanta Windows	404-516-0048	Windows & OS/2 support, 5 Gigs online	PCBoard	9	Warren Royal	Woodstock, GA
34	Swamp, The	715-425-8865	Internet, FidoNet, 2 Gigs files online	Maximus	10	David Bushard	River Falls, WI
35	Cracker Barrel BBS, The	703-899-2285	Specialized in medical & diabetes information	RA	4	Kevin Graham	Falmouth, VA
36	Odyssey	818-358-6968	Largest Adult based entertainment on west coast	Custom	118	Michael Allen	Monrovia, CA
37	Crystal Quill	703-241-7100	Telenet ip 199.125.162.3, online games, chat	MajorBBS	74	Pamela Stewart	Arlington, VA
38	Hello Central	206-641-7218	Adult board, chat, social, must be over 21	MajorBBS	21	Stan Shelhamer	Bellevue, WA
39	Prodigy Games	800-775-7714	Help on fantasy, sci-fi, coin-op, simulator	TFP	40000	Steve Forbis	GKJW75A
40	Prodigy Travel	800-775-7714	Info on when, where, and why to travel	TFP	40000	Jack Adler	KKFR65A
41	Colorado Connection, The	303-423-9775	BirdNet, 16 CD-ROMs, ASP BBS, Internet email	TBBS	5	Terry Rune	Avada, CO

42	Rock Garden, The	602-220-0001	Online RPG, games, chat, High Velocity software	MajorBBS	40	Jeff Moriarty	Phoenix, AZ
43	Tampa Connection	813-961-8665	Matchmaking, full Internet, network chat	Custom	24	Bobby Dominquez	Tampa, FL
44	Cyberia	717-840-1444	RIP, online games, 3.3 Gigs online, shareware	TBBS	15	Adam Viner	York, PA
45	Synergy Online	201-331-1797	Online games, chat system 13 Gigs online	PCBoard	30	Jim Boxmeyer	Parsippany, NJ
46	Infinite Space BBS	407-856-0021	General all interest, chat, Internet, Orlando List	MajorBBS	32	Charlie Scherker	Orlando, FL
47	Top City	612-225-1003	Chat, information, local radio stations online	DLX	32	Tim Larson	St Paul, MN
48	Point Blank	516-755-3000	Entertainment and business, chat, Internet email	MajorBBS	25	Kathi Livornese	Plainview, NY
49	Prodigy Sports	800-775-7714	Baseball, basketball, football, and other sports	TFP	4000	Lisa Anson	HMH65A
50	Prodigy Computer	800-775-7714	Hardware, software, news, hints and tips	TFP	4000	Dan Lee	TWKS23C
51	Capital City Online	206-956-1123	IRE chat, online games, 35,000 files	Wildcat!	11	Joe Goelles	Olympia, WA
52	County Link	216-236-6126	46,000 files, FidoNet, Rime, RIP	SearchLight	10	Steve Husk	Columbia Station, OH
53	Garbage Dump	505-294-5675	National access from over 500 cities	MajorBBS	105	Dean Kerl	Albuquerque, NM
54	Midwest BBS	708-513-1034	Internet email, USA Today, shareware	PCBoard	4	Patrick McCloskey	St. Charles, IL
55	Toledo's TBBS	313-854-6001	Internet, Usenet, FidoNet, 24 CD-ROMs online	TBBS	10	Jim Dummeyer	Temperance, MI
56	Friendship Express BBS	612-566-5726	Adults only, gay, lesbian, and other lifestyles	MajorBBS	36	Toni	Minneapolis, MN
57	Mercury Opus	813-321-0734	Amiga, Mac, DOS, Windows, OS/2, adult files	PCBoard	10	Emery Mandell	Largo, FL
58	BMUG Boston	617-721-5840	Support BBS for the Berkeley Mac Users Group	FirstClass	6	Roz Ault	Boston, MA
59	Arka Amateurs	703-352-8142	Adult chat, stories, shopping mall	Maximus	4	Robert Smith	Fairfax, VA
60	Prodigy Crafts	800-775-7714	Info on how to do it, what's hot and not	TFP	4000	Karen E Praff	XGNP63A
61	Source, The	310-371-3737	Shareware, Internet, FidoNet, MSI SupportNet	Wildcat!	6	Chip North	Laudale, CA
62	Prodigy Hobbies	800-775-7714	Contests, helpful hints, info on most hobbies	TFP	4000	Jim Callan	VBCG41A
63	YEBB	605-331-5831	Sioux Falls school system, Internet, email	PCBoard	7	Ray Christensen	Sioux Falls, SD
64	Pegasus Project	813-481-5575	Pegasus Software support, Internet, Usenet	PCBoard	7	Chris Michaels	Cape Coral, FL
65	YA WEBECAD	812-428-3870	CAD and graphics, ASP BBS, Usenet, shareware	Wildcat!	5	Don Habegger	Evansville, IN
66	Eagles Nest Communications	401-732-5290	General interest, 20 Gigs online, Internet	PCBoard	10	Mike Labbe	Providence, RI
67	Radio Wave BBS	609-764-0812	Internet email, Usenet newsgroups, files	PCBoard	2	Tyler Myers	Delren, NJ
68	Prodigy Music	800-775-7714	Special guests, info on concerts and dates	TFP	4000	Lisa Robinson	PKNU41A
69	TSCNet	206-613-0437	Internet, Usenet, Rime, Metrolink, 13 Gigs, games	PCBoard	22	Al Charpentier	Puget Sound, WA
70	Prodigy Medical	800-775-7714	Support for medical conditions, very helpful	TFP	4000	Elaine Hulbert	CPRX19A
71	Windows Online	510-736-8343	Largest Windows BBS, Internet email, Usenet news	PCBoard	17	Frank Mahaney	Danville, CA
72	Digicom Info Network	812-479-1310	Internet email, FidoNet, Support BBS List	RA	10	Gary Barr	Evansville, IN
73	West Coast Connection	619-449-8333	Over 40,000 files, online games, 700 message bases	PCBoard	9	Don Presten	El Cujon, CA
74	After The Bars	312-262-3626	Gay & lesbian chat system, large database	DLX	25	Rick Pollack	Chicago, IL
75	DLS InfoNet	303-347-2921	20,000 files, Usenet newsgroups, Internet email	Wildcat!	5	Jerry McCarthy	Littleton, CO
76	Hottanta BBS	404-992-5345	Social chat system for open minded adults	DLX	32	Mike Deen	Atlanta, GA
77	Ultimate BBS	217-792-3663	Large social chat system, files	MajorBBS	130	Ted Glenright	Mt. Pulaski, IL
78	Compass Rose	916-447-0292	Social chat system, messages, email	MajorBBS	36	Albert Boyle	Davis, CA
79	Prodigy Teens	800-775-7714	This is for teens only, by teens only	TFP	4000	Ana Pouso	PJCE20A
80	Perfect Vision Graphics	513-233-7993	High resolution, high quality GIFs	Wildcat!	3	Robin Reston	Troy, OH
81	24th St Exchange	916-448-2483	100,000 shareware file, Internet email, chat	TBBS	38	Don Kuhworth	Sacramento, CA
82	Vegas Playground	702-383-9939	Shareware file system	Synchronet	24	Frank Sener	Las Vegas, NV
83	Dance of Shiva	502-899-7773	16 CD-ROMs, Internet, Usenet, FidoNet	TBBS	12	Chuck Burke	Louisville, KY
84	Channel 1	617-354-8873	Internet access, large file base of shareware	PCBoard	135	Brian Miller	Cambridge, MA
85	Mog-ur's EMS	818-366-1238	Lagrange file system, Internet, Usenet, 14 Networks	Wildcat!	5	Tom Timpidis	Granada Hills, CA
86	Godfather, The	813-289-3314	Home of Emposium, CD-ROMs, GIFs, Usenet	PCBoard	6	Jim Sharrer	Tampa, FL
87	Fresno Public Access	209-277-3008	Games, files, messages, FidoNet	MajorBBS	32	George Berz	Fresno, CA
88	Rose and Crown	615-892-0097	57 CD-ROMs online, Rime, GIFs, 100 disk CD changer	PCBoard	6	David Ellison	Chattanooga, TN
89	Micro Message Service	919-779-6674	Internet, FidoNet, shareware, chat, files	TBBS	12	Mike Stroud	Raleigh, NC
90	Tech Talk	407-635-8833	10 Gigs, 60,000 files, Internet email, Ultrachat	TBBS	12	Jerry Russell	Titusville, FL
91	MPCUG	608-233-0286	3 Gigs online, files, Madison PC Users' Group	PCBoard	4	Marty Shannon	Madison, WI
92	Kandy Shack	714-636-2667	Large, nice file area, large message area	PCBoard	9	Mary Bernstein	Garden Grove, CA
93	Third Eye, The	615-227-6155	Adults only, free speech, matchmaking	TBBS	12	Michael Vetter	Nashville, TN
94	ONIX	215-879-6616	Multi-player games, Amiga, Mac, DOS, Windows files	MajorBBS	22	Jeff N Miller	Philadelphia, PA
95	Digital Vortex	404-751-9736	16,000 files, games, adult areas, messages	Wildcat!	4	Stephen Embry	Woodstock, GA
96	Linq	514-522-3866	Adult board, active messages, files, information	TBBS	22	Art Blair	Montreal, QB
97	Graphic Impulse BBS	217-398-4450	Adult graphics, matchmaking, original scans	Wildcat!	10	Lou Shepard	Champaign, IL
98	In Through The Out Door	317-282-6862	2.5 Gigs, active message base, online games	RA Pro	2	Gregory Smith	Muncie, IL
99	Titan BBS	904-476-1270	Internet, Usenet, Network echos, FDN fileares	Wildcat!	9	Clayton Manson	Pensacola, FL
100	Possibilities	619-748-5264	Online games, Ultrachat, messages, email, files	TBBS	7	Christopher Tracey	Poway, CA

LATE BREAKING NEWS *Flash*

OKLAHOMA INFORMATION EXCHANGE BBS OPERATOR SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON

Tony Davis operated a BBS as a hobby and was at one time the FidoNet Echomail coordinator for the United States - well regarded both in his local community and in the wider world of BBSland. By 1993, his BBS OKLAHOMA INFORMATION EXCHANGE had grown to 10 lines - one of the largest in the state of Oklahoma.

Davis became involved in CD-ROM storage early on, and he took an interest in the mastering side of the business. He assembled a number of collections of shareware and titled them "Magnum" as in Magnum 1, Magnum Games and Windows, and Magnum Sight and Sound. After selling a few copies to other BBS operators, he attended ONE BBSCON in Denver in 1992 and actually shared a small booth on the floor with another vendor. His wares to vend consisted of a photocopied piece of paper listing his CD-ROM titles. But by the end of the second day on the vendor exhibit floor, he had gleaned \$23,000 in cash - and a new business. He was riding on top of the world, and ordering champagne all around.

He named the publishing company Mid-America Digital Publishing and went into CD-ROM sales as well as operating a BBS. Ironically, in a field renowned for artless photos of naked fat women with donkeys, Davis's own titles were purely shareware collections for BBS/technical people - most successfully his Windows collection. And it was quite successful. He himself published no "adult" material at all, at any time. But as MADP grew, there was a continuous demand from customers for "adult" titles. So he began carrying an inventory of readily available CD-ROMs, published by other publishers, including such notables as Busty Babes I, Extasy Hot Pics, and XXX Extreme.

Understand that these disks did contain what anyone would consider gruesomely pornographic material. These particular titles were available nationally and widely advertised in periodicals including PC Magazine, Boardwatch Magazine and Computer Shopper. But Davis didn't publish them. He sold them as a distributor. On a national basis, they weren't considered out of the ordinary, but Davis operated in the heart of the Oklahoma Bible Belt - where it is technically illegal to BE naked and not actively bathing in running water at the time. The CD-ROMs in question are still commonly available today.

In May of 1993, undercover investigators for the Oklahoma City Police Department visited the offices of Mid-America Digital Publishing and purchased some "Busty Babes" CD-ROMs. On July 20, 1993, four vice officers raided Mid-America Digital Publishing for the joint purposes of arresting Davis, and videotaping the event as part of a sweetheart deal they had with a local TV station. He was charged with possession, sale, and trafficking in obscene materials. And the tape ran on local television that evening under a regular, if tasteless feature titled - YOU'RE BUSTED.

During a trial held May 1-5, 1994, Davis was tried on these obscenity charges. The trial consisted almost entirely of showing the jury, which included TWO Christian fundamentalist ministers, a series of the most lurid adult photo images from the CD-ROMs in question, with Davis painted as a threat to children, dogs, and the American way of life. On May 5, 1994, the jury returned a verdict as follows:

Count 1 - Distribution Of Obscene Material (Extasy Hot Pics CD-Rom)
Verdict: Guilty
Recommended Sentence: 5 Years in jail & \$1,000 fine

Count 2 - Distribution Of Obscene Material (XXX Extreme CD-Rom)
Verdict: Guilty
Recommended Sentence: 5 Years in jail & \$1,000 fine

Count 3 - Possession of Obscene Material (Busty Babes CD-Rom, FAO 2 CD-Rom, FAO 3 CD-Rom, Storm 2 CD-Rom)
Verdict: Guilty
Recommended Sentence: 5 years in jail & \$1,000 fine

Count 4 - Trafficking In Obscene Material (Busty Babes CD-Rom, FAO 2 CD-Rom, FAO 3 CD-Rom, Storm 2 CD-Rom)
Verdict: Guilty
Recommended Sentence: 15 Years in jail & \$25,000 fine

Count 5 - Using a computer to violate State statutes
Verdict: Guilty
Recommended Sentence: 5 Years in jail & \$5,000 fine

By the judge's own admission, they're not even certain if computer data is covered by the statutes under which Davis was charged. But he was charged, and convicted.

On August 8th, the tragedy continued with the formal sentencing of Davis. Davis was sentenced to 10 years in state prison, a \$10,000 fine, and 500 hours of community service for these information crimes. Davis noted that he is now totally bankrupt. And to complete the tragedy, after more than a year of living with the daily emotional trauma of this drama, Davis's wife announced she was filing for divorce.

Mrs. Bobbitt may have walked away a free woman after relieving her husband of the responsibility of caring for his penis - with a butcher knife. But if you sold a CD-ROM with digital photographic images of the act in Oklahoma, the going rate is 10 years in the state pen.

EFA mailing list can be subscribed to by sending mail to:
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If you haven't already joined. The fees are just **\$10.00** per annum but are set to change to **\$20.00** per annum. These fees are to cover basic running costs like postage and stationary when lobbying Senators and Parliamentary delegates to ensure your continued Electronic Freedom. Membership information can be obtained by sending e-mail to membership@efa.iinet.com.au. For those not yet Internet connected, a message to efa@3:635/552 will also get a membership information kit.

Mr. Garth Kidd is EFA's Media Spokesman and can be contacted on (08) 234-0908.

That's our Pacific Forum this month. Next month, we'll have a look at where Australians can connect to the Internet.

[Tom Koltai runs Kakadu Konnection BBS in downtown metropolitan Darwin (pop: 75,000) the closest city to Kakadu National Park. - Editor]

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Modem Watch

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ATI Technologies	19200 ETC-E	\$279	\$189	905-764-9404	905-882-2600	905-882-2620
Cardinal Technologies	MVP192E 19.2k V.32terbo	\$229	\$119	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Digicom Systems, Inc	Scout Plus Terbo 19.2k	\$269	\$155	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems, Inc	Scout Plus Terbo for Mac	\$289	\$160	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems, Inc	Scout Classic V.32bis 14.4K	\$199	\$109	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 288 V.FC + Fax	\$579	\$288	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Intel Corporation	SatisFAXtion 400e 14.4k	\$399	\$249	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Intel Corporation	14.4 External	\$199	\$109	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Microcom	DeskPorte FAST 28.8	\$499	\$249	617-255-1125	617-551-1000	617-551-1988
Microcom	DeskPorte FAST ES 28.8	\$299	\$149	617-255-1125	617-551-1000	617-551-1988
Multi-Tech Systems	MT1432BA	\$699	\$350	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Multi-Tech Systems	MT932BA	\$749	\$375	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Practical Peripherals	PC288SA V.FC	\$499	\$220	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Practical Peripherals	PC288MT V.FC	\$349	\$160	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Supra Corporation	SupraFax 28.8 V.FC	\$299	\$169	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Telebit Corporation	WorldBlazer	\$1099	\$429	408-745-3861	800-835-3248	408-734-3333
Telebit Corporation	QBlazer	\$599	\$299	408-745-3861	800-835-3248	408-734-3333
U.S. Robotics	Courier V.EVERYTHING w/V.FC	\$795	\$249	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
Ven-Tel	EC144FAX 14.4k V.32bis	\$329	\$215	408-922-0988	408-436-7400	408-436-7451
Zoom Telephonics	VFX 28.8 External V.FC/V.32	\$269	\$159	617-423-4733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
Zoom Telephonics	VFX 24k External V.FC/V.32bis	\$229	\$130	617-423-4733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
ZyXEL	U-1496RE+/19.2 Rackmount	\$499	\$349	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496RE/16.8 Rackmount	\$499	\$349	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E+/19.2k V.32bis	\$499	\$349	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	RS-1602E Rack Chassis	\$799	\$499	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705

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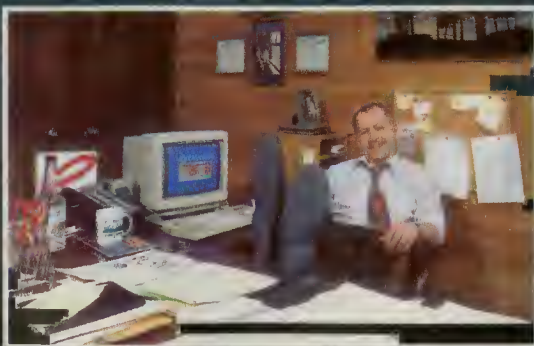


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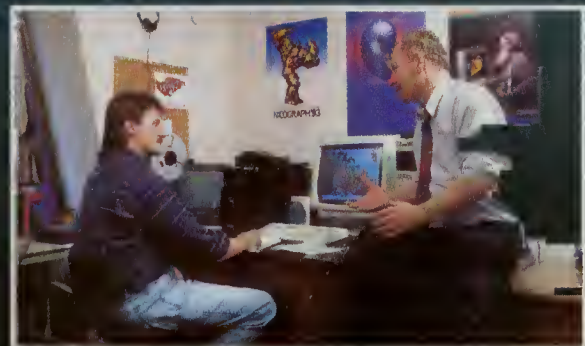
ABC News - Day One, CBS News, A Current Affair, Computer Chronicles, CNN...

And read in

TIME Magazine, Boardwatch Magazine, New Age Media, CyberSex, Newsweek, The Economist, Omni Magazine...



Jim Maxey, President and CEO of
Event Horizons, Inc.



Jeff Butsch and Jim brainstorming the
next CD-ROM project

GALACTICOMM ANNOUNCES INTERNET CONNECTIVITY OPTION FOR THE MAJOR BBS

The drive to develop tools connecting bulletin boards to the Internet is picking up steam strongly going into the fall of 1994. The latest to announce an Internet connectivity solution is Galaticomm, Inc. They'll be demoing a new option for The Major BBS at ONE BBSCON titled the Internet Connectivity Option or (ICO). Priced at **\$995**, the new software package is slated for availability by October 1, 1994.

The Internet Connectivity Option provides inbound and outbound telnet and ftp for The Major BBS. This means callers to a Major BBS system can telnet or ftp out to other services on the Internet, and Internauts, conversely, can telnet or ftp into the bulletin board system. The package, developed by Galaticomm's chief engineer Bob Stein, is unique in a couple of key ways.

First, it is reasonably self sufficient. It consists almost entirely of software, including changes to Major BBS itself, some additional applications, and a TCP/IP stack from Ipswitch, Inc., of Wakefield Massachusetts. The result is a series of layers of software between Major BBS and the LAN adapter allowing the four basic functions implemented in this release.

This is somewhat similar to the packet driver/winsock architecture for Windows we described in our March issue. As a result, it does not require

the use of other PC's, software on a Novell File Server, etc. You connect the PC that runs Major BBS to an ethernet cable that has TCP/IP connected to it, and you can play.

The basic architecture relies on a layered design. The Major BBS itself normally relies on an underlying communications software library called the Galaticomm Software Breakthrough Library or GSBL. This is the low level comm routines the company originally offered with a modem board sold by Galaticomm and it is interesting to note that The Major BBS was originally a demonstration BBS to demonstrate use of the GSBL for communications applications.

The ICO requires a new version of Major BBS. Version 6.25 and later will incorporate a new layer in the GSBL called The Galaticomm Custom Device Interface or GCDI. The GCDI allows vendors to interface devices to the GSBL simply by providing a Dynamic Link Library or DLL program.

The heart of the Internet Connectivity Option or ICO is the TCP/IP stack from Ipswitch, Inc. titled the Piper/IP TCP/IP Kernal. This is a DLL that implements the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol necessary to connect to the Internet. This particular stack is interesting in that it exists mainly in Protected Mode memory and leaves a very small footprint of perhaps 8 KB in the PC's main memory when using a LAN driver.

The telnet out, ftp out, and ftp in functions of the ICO are really just applica-

tions added to the BBS. But the telnet in function requires a small shim between the GCDI and the TCP/IP stack to intercept calls to port 23, a telnet convention.

The TCP/IP stack, in turn interfaces to a packet driver. This conforms to the basic Clarkson Driver packet driver concept that has virtually become a standard for PCs. The basic Galaticomm design is to use the ODIPKT.COM driver written by Daniel Lanciani, who coincidentally is the main designer of the Ipswitch kernal as well, to interface the system to Novell's Open Data-Link Interface LAN protocol. But you could conceivably replace ODIPKT.COM with another packet driver for SLIP or PPP for example, to connect the system by modem to an Internet Services Provider using the Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP) or the Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) as well.

The resulting package offers some interesting features. Callers can connect to a site using Major BBS global commands available from almost any command line like `/ftp images.jsc.nasa.gov` or `/telnet books.com`.

Internauts who telnet in will simply be connected to the normal Major BBS logon prompt. FTP callers can either login with their existing logon name and password to access all file directories that correspond to BBS file libraries, or as "anonymous" following the normal Internet convention to gain access to a limited series of files made available to the public. Additionally, Galaticomm is making an Internet Connectivity Development Kit available to their third-party developers allowing them in turn to develop additional capabilities. The DLL architecture afforded by their new Galaticomm Common Device Interface allows these plug-in applications. They can use functions such as `regtcpsvr()` to register a server to listen for connections on a specific TCP port number (telnet listens on port 23, ftp on port 21, gopher on port 80 by convention) or `tcpdial()` to initiate a connection to another system. The company is hoping to inspire their active third-party developer community to build applications such as archie clients, gopher servers, WWW servers, and so forth to add to the basic system. Availability and pricing on the development kit has not been set.



Bob Stein, Galaticomm, Inc.

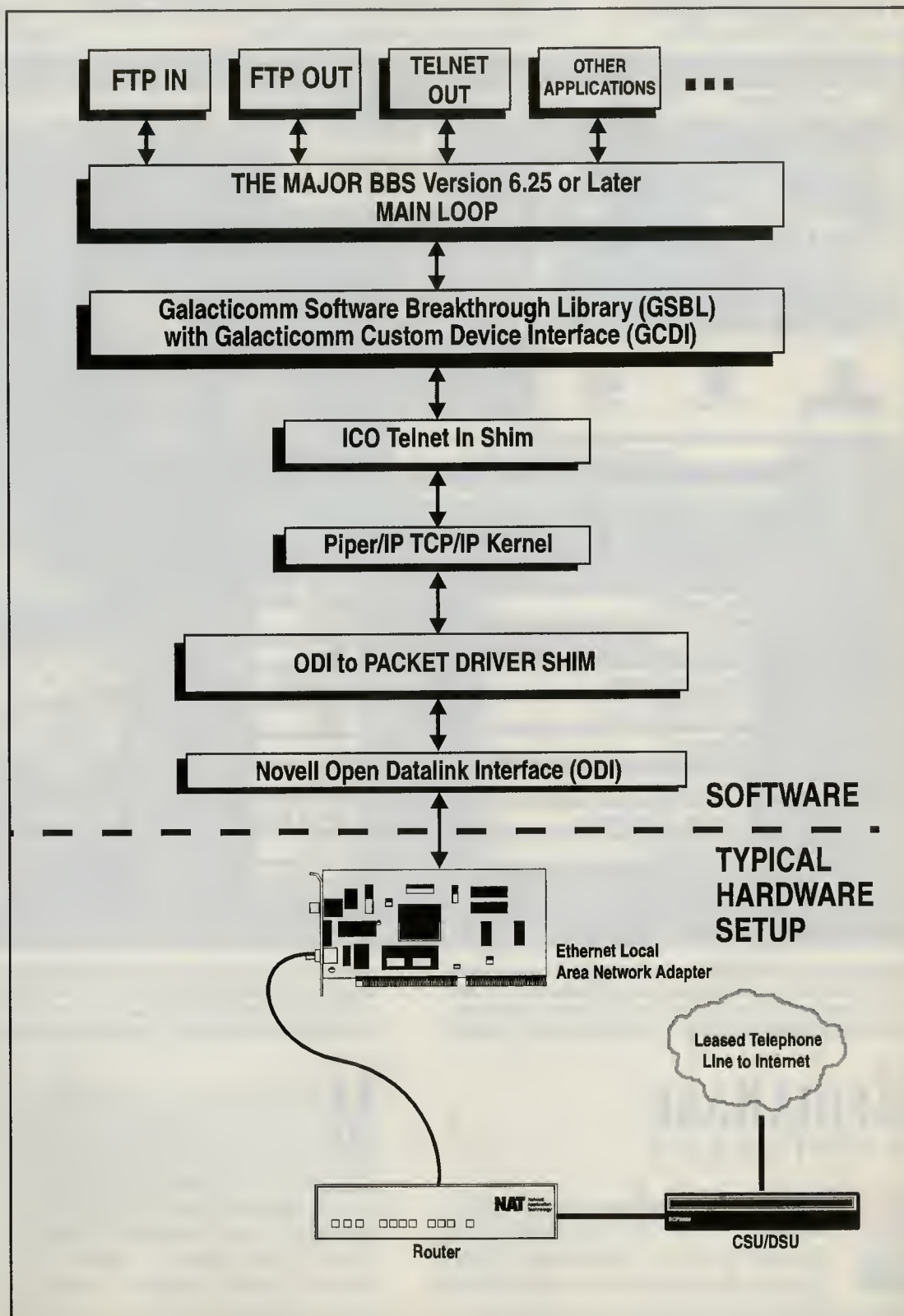
The package does NOT includeT-someitems normally considered pretty basic such as the Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP) for sending/receiving electronic mail, the Network News Transport Protocol (NNTP) for sending/receiving USENET news, or any form of internal domain name service. For the present, those who buy ICO at \$995 will automatically get The Major Gateway/Internet add-on option, normally priced at \$249, at no additional cost. This is an e-mail and USENET gateway that uses the Unix to Unix Copy Program (UUCP) g protocol to send and receive mail. Existing Major Gateway/Internet users will be credited \$150 toward the purchase of the Internet Connectivity Option. And at some point in the future they intend to add SMTP and NNTP into the Internet Connectivity Option itself, ending the dependence on UUCP for mail.

We did telnet and ftp to Bob Stein's test system, which was running on a 14.4 kbps SLIP connection at the time, which didn't allow it to show off much with regards to performance, but did demonstrate the functions. One interesting aspect was that from any command prompt, you can enter an FTPA command with a site name, and it would automatically do an anonymous ftp login, including entering the ANONYMOUS at the login prompt, and your e-mail address on the Galaticomm system as the password. We're not real clear on why we haven't seen this nifty feature anywhere else before, since the anonymous login

convention is so widespread it should be easy to implement, and is actually a real keystroke saver.

Galaticomm faces a big development curve for SMTP, NNTP, domain name service, and routing issues, but for basic telnet/ftp access into and out of a Major BBS system, the ICO seems to

fill the ticket with a minimum amount of other hardware and software. Galaticomm, Inc., 4101 SW 47th Ave., Suite 101, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314; (305)583-5990 voice; (305)583-7486 fax; (305)583-7808 BBS.



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MediaBase provides a powerful and natural interface for your online database application. Database queries are displayed in a spread sheet format, just double click on the entries to view photos and information pertaining to that record. A powerful query engine lets your clients quickly find the information they are looking for by defining their search criteria. Photos and data are sent seamlessly in the background while your clients interact with data already on their desktop. Whether you are setting up a Real Estate, Contacts, Tourism, Shopping, Customer support, Inventory or any other type of database across a network or from a remote location MediaBase offers the right interface for your application.

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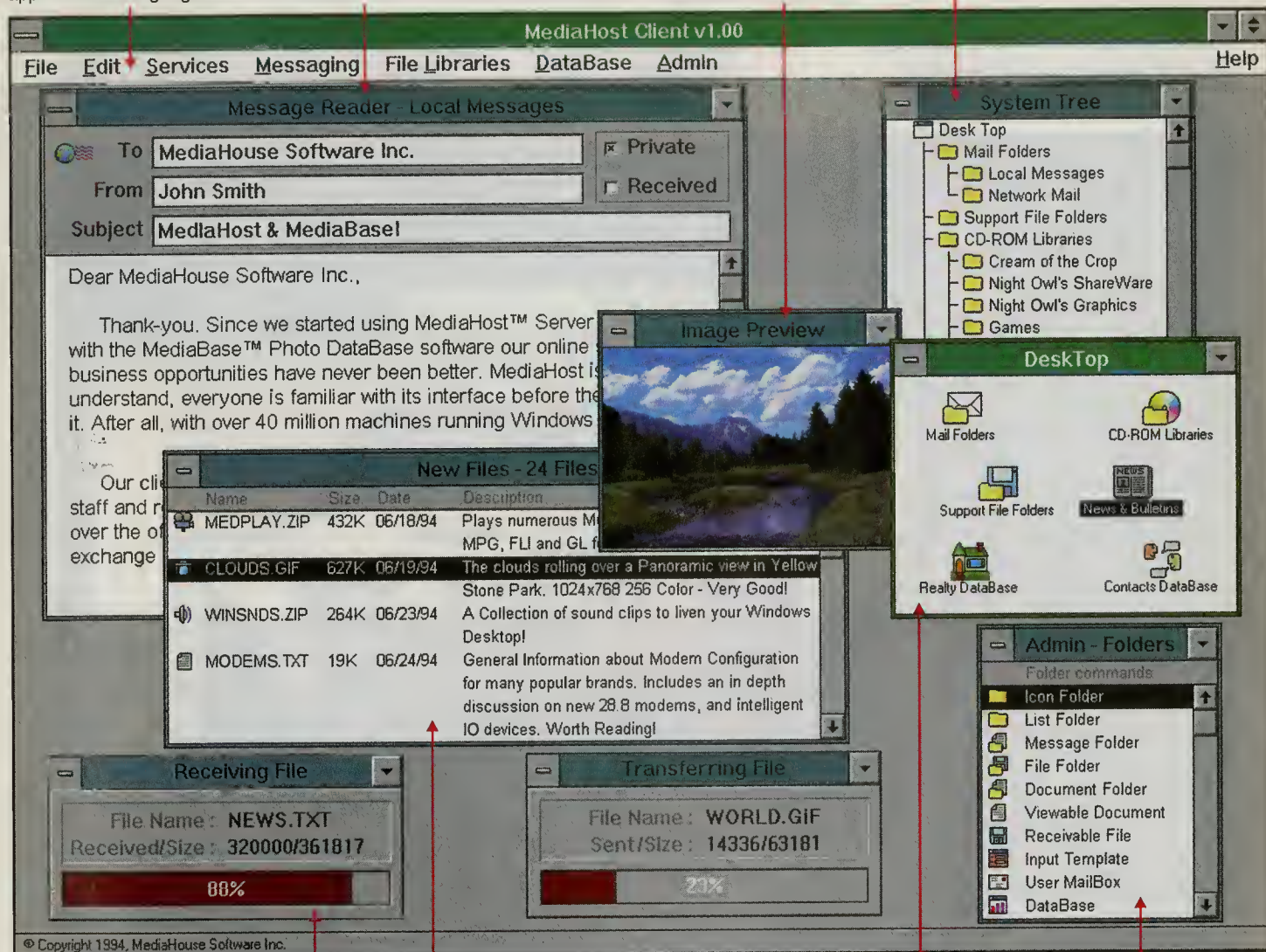
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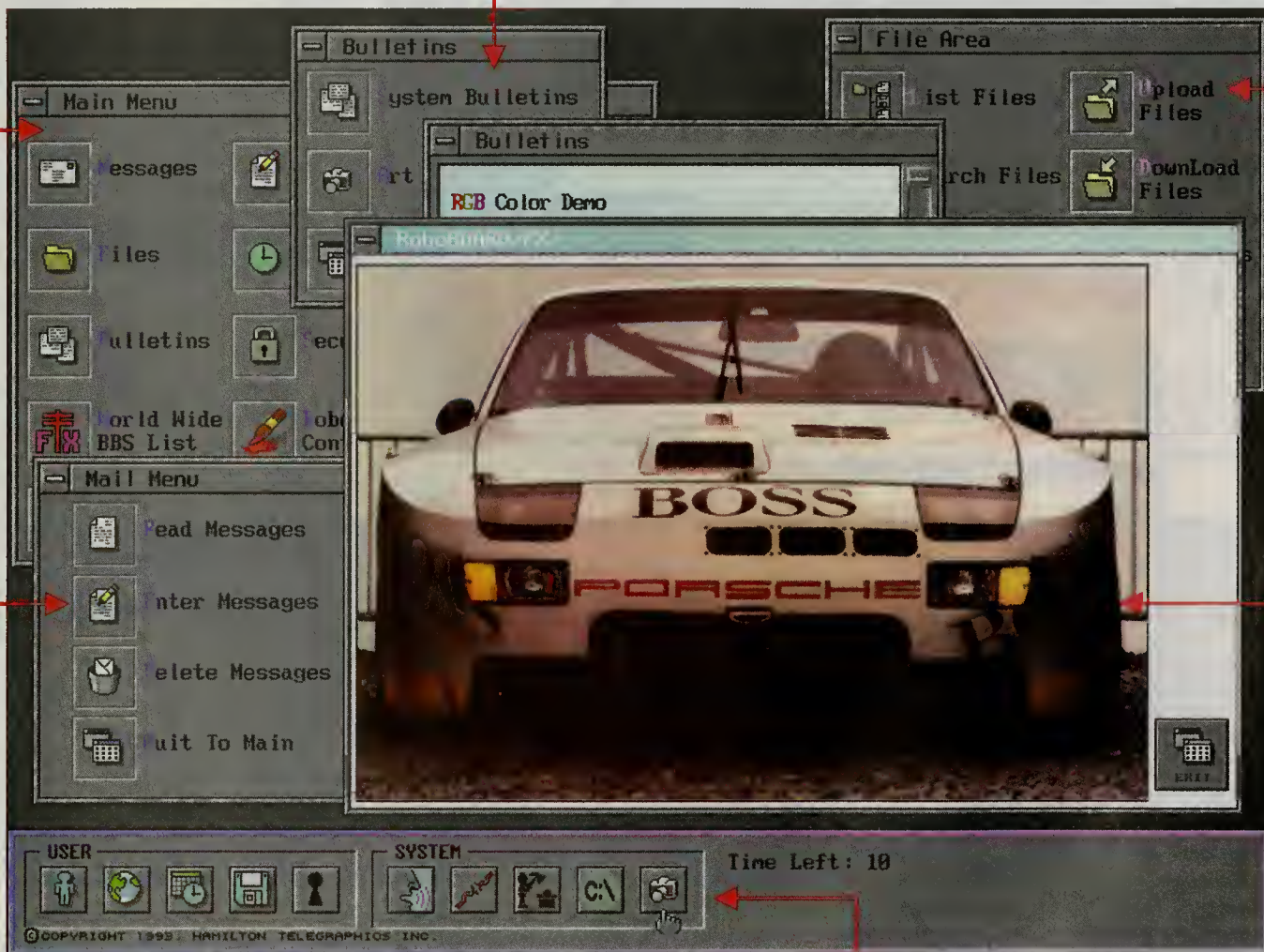


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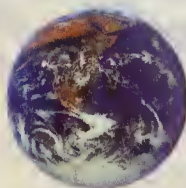
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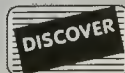
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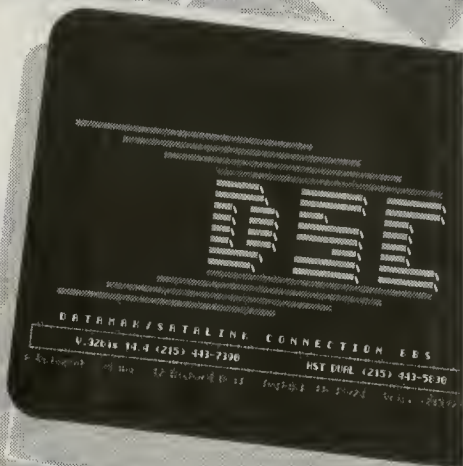
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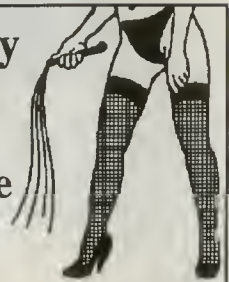
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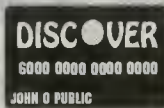
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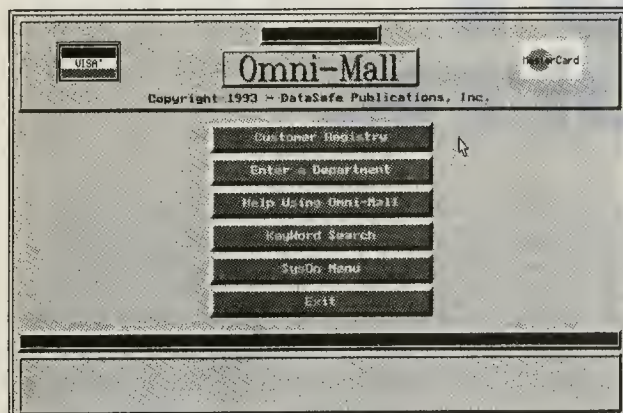
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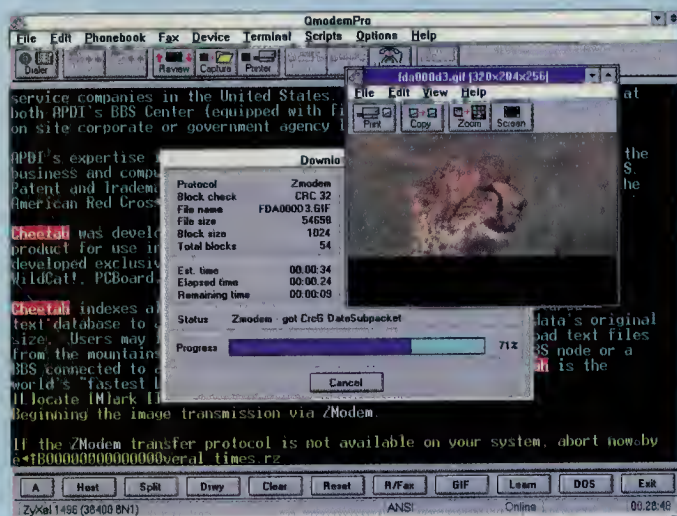
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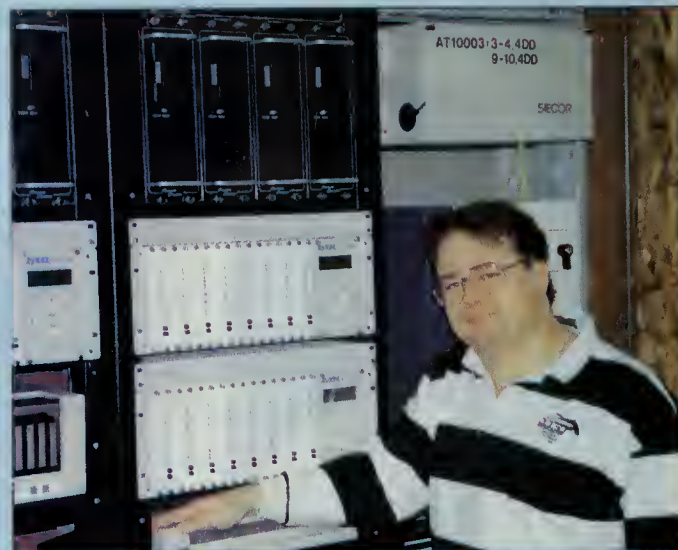
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TECHNOLOGY FRONT

APPLE QUICKTAKE 100 — NOT QUITE READY FOR PRIME TIME



By Jim Thompson
Western News Service

When looking at the specifications and brochures, Apple's new QuickTake 100, a consumer grade electronic camera, would seem to be an exciting new product perfect for capturing images for online use. But closer examination and field testing reveals a camera that fails to deliver on the promises of quality and flexibility. This is not to say it does not have many good aspects. For certain applications, it may be the perfect solution, but for general use it is definitely not ready for prime time.

The QuickTake 100 is a true electronic camera meaning that it is capable of capturing 24-bit full color images. This contrasts with other consumer grade "image capture" cameras that store images on disk in a still video format. The camera is capable of storing images in two resolutions: 320x240 pixels (standard resolution) or 640x480 pixels (high resolution).

You can change from standard to high resolution at any time by simply pressing a button on the camera. However, unless you have no need for any kind of quality or unless your final pictures will be quite small (perhaps one inch square for printing and about 1/5 of a 14" screen for viewing

purposes), I doubt if you will be satisfied with the "standard resolution."

The standard setting resulted in pictures that were only marginally usefully when viewed at full screen size. Screen resolution is only 72-dpi, which means that this "standard" setting is not recommended for anything but relatively small images.

According to Apple, "the QuickTake 100 is based on technology derived from the Kodak DCS 200, an \$8,000 digital camera." This may be true, but to draw even a slight comparison between the QuickTake 100 and the Kodak DCS 200 is ludicrous. In side-by-side comparisons with the two cameras, the difference was so vast that it was hard to find any similarities.

One indication of the vast difference in the quality of the images produced by the QuickTake 100 and the Kodak DCS 200 is the file size. In high resolution mode, the QuickTake produces an image that is approximately 900k. The DCS 200 produces an image with a size of 4.5-megabytes. It doesn't take an image expert to realize that there is no comparison between these two images.

Still, as indicated by Apple, both cameras utilize a similar technology for capturing images. The QuickTake uses a single CCD imaging chip that could be compared to the Kodak DCS 200. But the CCD imaging chip is not the only factor that must be considered. There

are other parts of a camera, specifically the shutter and the lens, that affect the quality of the final image.

I tested the QuickTake at a recent IndyCar race. This meant taking photos of static object (drivers and cars in the pit areas) and fast moving objects (cars on the race track). What I found was that the camera performed adequately with static objects. However, when it came to taking pictures of moving objects, especially something as fast as a race car, the camera was disappointing.

I was unable to capture a picture of a moving car on the track. I even had marginal success when taking pictures of people who were running. The shutter on the camera just is too slow to adequately stop action. Compounding this is the fact that there is a noticeable delay between taking a picture and the time it takes for the camera to write that image to its internal Flash EPROM. You can blur a picture if you move the camera too quickly after pressing the shutter button.

The shutter speed is rated at 1/30 to 1/175 second. It takes about four or five seconds for the camera to write the image and be ready for the next picture.

Another problem is the low-quality plastic lens which is a far cry from the precision Nikon optics found in the Kodak DCS 200. The result is a lack of sharpness to the images. Although protected by a sliding cover, because it



QuickTake shot at 640-480 resolution

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is plastic the lens can be easily scratched. Of course, any scratches will become a part of any future pictures. Through the miracles of photo manipulation programs such a scratch could be taken out, but not without a lot of extra time and effort.

The fixed focus lens provides a range of focus four feet to infinity and a field of view that is roughly equivalent to a 50mm lens on a standard 35mm camera. This means that you are out of luck if you were hoping to use the QuickTake to catalogue your stamp collection or to show the detail in small objects. It does a nice job, however, with scenic or architectural shots. If you want pictures of the sun setting over the ocean or of the New York skyline, it will work fine. The aperture is rated at f2.8 to f16.

Another problem I found was with the colors. The QuickTake 100 had a hard time rendering accurate reproductions of the certain colors, especially reds and yellows, although it did a nice job with the blues. In the illustration accompanying this article, the reds are not even close to the original colors. Where the original color was more of a reddish-orange color, the QuickTake produced a color that is more like an over-saturated, syrupie Chinese Pagoda red.

The images are stored in a compressed format in EPROM. They expand to full size when moved from the camera to the computer. Both a Macintosh and a PC version are available. Both use the same camera, the only difference is the interface cable and the software. The QuickTake 100 can store up to 32 images in standard resolution, but only 8 images in the high resolution format. This makes it very inconvenient if you want to use the camera in the field and quality is a concern. It doesn't take long to go through 8 pictures and once the camera is full it becomes just one more piece of excess baggage.

One of the features I do like about the camera is that it uses the serial port to move images from the camera to the computer. This eliminates the need for any special capture boards or SCSI card, so virtually any computer can be used.

I also found the software interface program that is included with the camera to be both intuitive and easy to use. After plugging in the camera and launching the software program, thumbnails of photos on the camera

are displayed. They are laid out in rows with little frames around them so they resemble 35mm slides. Next to each picture is an icon indicating whether it was taken in standard or high resolution mode. Double-clicking on a image takes it off the camera and displays it.

The Macintosh version of the software can save the picture as a PICT, TIFF or in a propriety QuickTake format. Images can also be acquired within Apple's PhotoFlash software available for Apple Macintosh computers. The Windows version saves the images as TIFF, BMP, PCX, JPEG or QuickTake.

The camera is even easier to use — just point and shoot. It has all the features of standard automatic film cameras including auto focus, auto exposure and a built-in flash. A button lets you erase all the images in the camera. Three standard AA batteries reportedly provide enough power for about 120 pictures. This assumes that about half are taken with the built-in flash.



CONCLUSIONS

The Apple QuickTake offers a number of very convenient features including ease of use and a simple method of acquiring images. However, it falls short when it comes to image quality. The colors are not always accurate. At standard resolution (320x240 pixels) the quality is not acceptable for most applications. The high resolution (640x480 pixels) setting may be usable for many applications, but the ability to store only 8 pictures severely limits its usefulness in applications that take you away from your computer.

This is not to say that the QuickTake does not have its place. For some applications, it may be the perfect solution. One such use would be real estate listings.

The QuickTake 100 would be an excellent choice for a BBS that is offering

photos of properties for sale. In such an application, the limit of 8 photos (high resolution) would probably not be a factor since one would not normally travel to more than a few properties in one trip. The QuickTake 100 might also be an excellent choice for those wanting a quick look at the progress of a building project.

Another possibility is to convert the images to greyscale or black-and-white for use in a newsletter or in-house publication. Again, if the images are kept relatively small, the quality is more than acceptable.

The QuickTake 100 certainly does have its uses but don't expect it to duplicate the features or quality of professional equipment.

Digital image capturing is the future of many phases of photography. It may never replace film where extremely high quality (fine art for example) or large formats (a billboard for instance) is needed. But certainly when it comes to situations where a quick turn-around is needed (breaking news or sports stories) or where quality is not the key element (snapshots and family outing pictures) digital will soon be the standard.

Apple is on the right track with the QuickTake 100. But, until they add a better lens, or a choice of lenses, and the ability to store more images, the QuickTake cannot be taken seriously.

(Jim Thompson is Managing Editor of Western News Service in Los Angeles, California. He also manages the Marlboro Racing News BBS. CompuServe: **72777,2677**, MCI Mail: **321-4127**, INTERNET: jim.thompson@wnsnews.com)

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PEOPLE ONLINE

CYBERSIGHT



by Phyllis Phlegar

In the summer of 1973, I got my first paying job in radio in the tiny Mayberry-esque North Carolina town of Oxford. I was on a revolving weekend shift, always working Sunday afternoons as a DJ but Saturdays I would DJ mornings one week, then afternoons, and then act as a weekend news reporter. We were a rag-tag crew but powerful in voice and popularity. Everyone in town recognized us immediately when we spoke, and many of the kids at the Oxford Orphanage heard me and saw me, in their mind's eye, as the voice of a mother; they didn't know I was only 20 years old, and had yet to do...anything...that might make me a mother.

Everyone I met, and worked with at this tiny Oxford radio station made a big impression on me, including the morning man, Harvey. Big voice, ran a "tight board," knew his music and was an all around nice guy who worked his aural magic to perfection.

One Saturday morning I was supposed to be there at 6:00 to open the station and turn on the transmitter, and be Harv's news reporter. I was still in college, and was driving in from Chapel Hill...at least an hour drive...and ran late. When I got to the station, Harv had already signed on the air and was broadcasting. With "Loves Me Like A Rock" by Paul Simon heard in the

control room monitor, I walked around the console and just stared at Harv...I couldn't believe my eyes, he'd turned on the transmitter, got set up and went on the air without me! You see, Harv is totally blind.

Harv and I worked together for six months, until I go a job at a radio station in Raleigh. Because of distance and school, I lost touch with everyone, and never saw Harv again. I thought of him often, and when I'd see a blind person walking down the street, anywhere I was, I'd stop and take a good look and see if it was Harv. It never was, and when I moved west, I gave up; after all, what were the chances of finding him? A few weeks ago, I was surfing Delphi, when my mouth literally dropped when I read this note: "Hi everyone. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Harvey Heagy <HHEAGY on Delphi>, I am blind, single and live in the <gulf state> area. I am new here having recently arrived from <another service> and do not have a speech friendly off-line reader yet so please bear with me. I am 43 years old and am totally blind using the computer via speech card. I have never been married but love children. I have a female golden retriever seeing eye dog named Sunshine. She will be ten next month, July 26th to be exact. I am also on the singles forum. You may respond here or via e-mail. Thanks for your time."

I could not believe my eyes, and must have had that same look on my face as I did 21 years ago when Harv signed on that radio station without me. I shot off an e-mail, reintroducing myself to him, and letting him know how glad I was to have found his note.

Then next night was his reply; he remembered me, he reminisced...his letter was neatly typed, and I, a sighted person, couldn't have done better myself. Some might say that's not saying much, but you get the idea. I marvelled at the perfection of his notes, but I shouldn't have been surprised, because a few weeks earlier, I'd spoken to Bonnie Snyder, (the Educational Technologist for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind), about adaptive technology.

In the February and May issues of the Computer Sun Times Bonnie spoke of a process for getting text into braille

called "Fax-to-Braille." This process opens up a whole new world of information to the blind, getting vast amounts of text into braille. The folks at CSDB are the innovators of the fax-to-braille method in the world of braille transcription and if you see a need for this technology in your community, contact Bonnie at (719)578-2215 or at bonnie.snyder@f93.n128.z1.fidonet.org (1=the number one, not the letter "L"). Bonnie will be more than happy to give you information and assistance on getting Fax-to-Braille up and running.

This all sounded great to me. But when I mentioned to Harv that the online playing field appears to have leveled for the blind, Harv said, "I wouldn't quite describe the field as level for the blind yet. First of all, many programs usable to the sighted user are not speech friendly for blind users such as GUI based programs which is clearly the direction the computer world is going. There are a few windows access programs but it is nowhere near the level we need to compete in the work place. <I> can set my computer up as <I> need it but in the work place we have to go with what there is and many blind people have lost or been forced to give up jobs because of this." However, they do have some recourse through the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Harv also gave me a cyber introduction to Walter <WALTERSIREN on Delphi>, a blind friend of his who first got into computers in 1986, when they opened a class for the visually impaired at the local university. Soon after that, he was logging on to local BBSs. From there, Walter ran a BBS for visually impaired users for the training department for the blind at that same university until "they decided they did not have enough users, or money in the budget to keep it going." After that, he went on line with genie and now, he's on Delphi. The author of the offline reader Rainbow, asked Walter to help make the program speech friendly. "I am not a programmer, but I could tell him what we needed, and he made it very speech friendly for us to use. I am sure that you are already aware of the speech <synthesizer, hardware and software> that makes it possible for us to read the screen on the computer. There are also braille output devices <with the help of driver software, it captures the text on the screen, and sends it to a refreshable braille display> to allow the blind to do

the same thing, but they are a lot more expensive than speech synthesizers and screen reading programs cost, but there those who are both deaf and blind, who have to use such a device. Now, online services are not any good for us to use if they have a graphical interface like Prodigy <and AOL>. Genie and Delphi, are still text based, so that makes it possible for us to use." Bonnie says that the blind can also use CompuServe if it is accessed in ASCII. She invites anyone to visit the Visual Disabilities echo on Fidonet; check with local Fidonet sysops and see if they are carrying this echo. If not, the CSDB BBS carries it, (719)632-8180.

It's been over 20 years since I last saw Harv and the gang in Oxford, and that long too, since the kids at the Oxford Orphanage could listen to the voice of someone who they could imagine was the voice of their mother. I think of them often, and still have the Christmas card I found on my car on my last day on the air in Oxford. The card simply said, "from the kids at O.O.; we will all miss you." It was already dark, but as I read this card, I could see the figure of a teenage boy as he came around the corner of the block. He said "You're Phyllis, right?" and explained that he was the oldest child at the orphanage, sort of a big brother to all of them. I said "Yes I am. And now you know why I've never come to visit the kids." He smiled somewhat sadly, and nodded his head.

With the cyber-space age miracle of finding Harv, I now wonder...could I find any of those orphans, now in their 20s and 30s, and tell them how much their love meant to me, even though I was so young myself? Would they understand why, a 20 year old who sounded much older, would not want to spoil the mental picture they had of me, even the at cost of never seeing their little faces? I now ask for another cyberspace miracle, that if any of the kids at the Oxford orphanage remember the summer and fall of 1973, please e-mail me at P.Phlegar on GENIE, or Phlegar on Delphi.

[Phyllis Phlegar is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and also holds a private pilot's license. In 1974, she was the first female news anchor for the North Carolina News Network, and most recently worked as a weather anchor on Business Radio Network. She's currently a freelance announcer and her work can still be heard on BRN, National Public



Harvey Heagy and Sunshine

Radio and the Armed Forces Radio Network. Phyllis is currently working on several writing projects, including those for Boardwatch Magazine, and Addison Wesley Publishing Company.]

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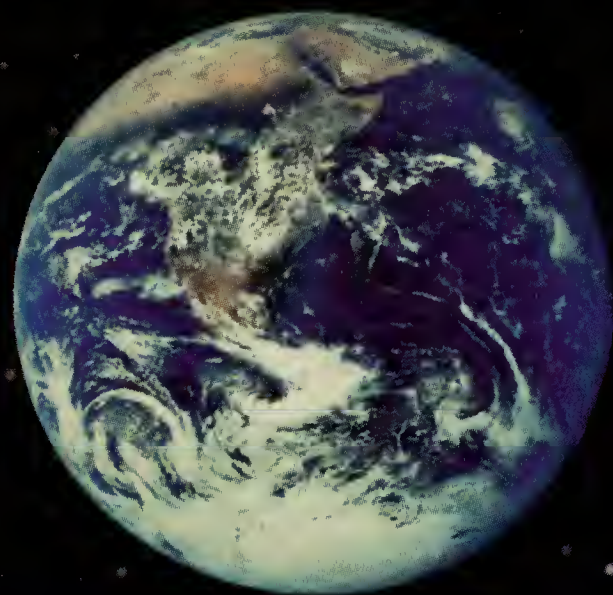
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CIX TO REQUIRE \$10,000 FEE FROM INTERNET PROVIDERS



by Gordon Cook - The Cook Report, August 94 Issue.

CIX board enforces routing path - routing filters to go up Nov. 1, 1994 Strains of Network Growth and New Architecture are Emerging.

A major policy implementation with potentially serious consequences for the CIX occurred at the CIX Board meeting on July 14. The CIX Board voted 4-1 with Sprint in the minority that effective November 1, 1994 filters will be established at the CIX router to prevent traffic from down stream sellers of Internet connectivity (who attach to CIX member networks and do not themselves join the CIX) from being routed to or through the 59 world wide CIX member networks. If this CIX policy goes into effect without large numbers of additional networks joining the CIX in the meantime, significant disruptions of connectivity may occur within the commercial internet. If it does not go into effect, many people believe that the CIX will likely go out of business, for it will be a signal to one and all that CIX routing - the major benefit of CIX membership is available to everyone regardless of whether they pay the fee.

In the meantime some say that Sprint is making threatening noises about dropping its CIX membership. Of course if Sprint does this and the remaining CIX members do carry out the policy, then Sprint could be

finished as a commercial player since it would loose connectivity to the other CIX members. For approximately the past year Sprint has been selling attractively priced connections to its Sprint Link service. Sprint has been selling connections with no restrictions on resale, while UUNET charges an additional fee of \$8000 for the right to resell. While we don't know PSI's terms, it has been widely discussed on network mail lists that PSI does not look kindly on those who want to connect to it for the purposes of giving others the right to resell - that is to say set up their own networks with their own routers that are hung off of the service provider's network. The tactic has been gaining Sprint market share at the expense of UUNET and PSI.

Who Must Join the CIX?

A dispute about who must join the CIX has been simmering behind the scenes since the fall of 1993. The official CIX position has been generally that anyone who assigns someone else a TCP/IP address is a reseller and must join CIX - in effect anyone selling SLIP or PPP accounts. When we interviewed CIX Executive Director Bill Washburn at the end of March, Washburn stated a modification to this policy: resellers with only one point of presence need not join the CIX in order to get CIX routing. This appeared to somewhat mollify CIX critics who objected that the \$10,000 annual fee was an unreasonable burden on small scale service provider who could establish a toe hold in the business for about the same amount or - according to some - even less.

However last week it was noted that the CIX policy appeared to have changed back to its original position of anyone doing SLIP or PPP resale regardless of the number of POPs - must join CIX. With the July 14 decision a lot of service providers will either need to take out CIX memberships or lose a lot of connectivity.

At mid day on July 15 CIX Board member and PSI Vice President Marty Schoffstall sent out an eight point message to all CIX members describing the highlights of the meeting, confirming the imposition of filters on November 1, describing some other actions planned (including the installation of SMDS at the CIX router), and

saying that membership fees for 1995 would decrease.

Origins of the Current Problem?

Ever since filters went up against ANS late last October there has been on and off bursts of discussion about who must join CIX and complaints that networks such as Digital Express were being "backdoored" by ANS. Indeed allegations were made that ANS had begun to use its CIX membership as a selling tool telling would be internet service providers that they could sign up at Diamond Mine rates and not have to worry about joining the CIX because CIX routing would be available through ANS.

One of the most vocal supporters of the CIX then and now was Karl Denninger - a very talented and technically very savvy entrepreneur who started his own internet access business in Chicago on an investment of \$5,000 and found that he could pay the \$10,000 CIX membership fee out of cash flow after he had been in operation for a year when, for the first time, he started selling SLIP connections. Denninger stated that he had signed up with Sprint because unlike PSI and UUNET, Sprint did not object to downstream resale or attempt to penalize financially such resale as long as resellers that became its customers joined the CIX. Because of Denninger's highly visible and vocal position on the com-priv mailing list where no one rose to challenge his assertion, we assumed that his characterization of Sprint's market position was accurate. We have now found out that it was quite mistaken.

Sprint had taken a hands-off attitude stating that it just sold connectivity and didn't feel it could get involved in implementing the CIX Association's Acceptable Use Policy. Sprint as been selling IP connectivity to Sprint Link to resellers more cheaply than PSI and UUNET, with no restriction on resale, and has been providing CIX routing to all its customers regardless of whether those customers joined the CIX. We had heard this allegation on the evening of July 14 in conversations with CIX members who were beginning to wonder what they had bought with their membership money. We then confirmed it with a source inside Sprint itself.

Finally, on the afternoon of July 15, Bob Collet, Director of Network Systems and Internet Services, directly acknowledged that indeed this is what Sprint has been doing. When we asked Collet if there might then not be a conflict of interest between his marketing strategy and his apparent duties as one of five Board members of the CIX Association to carry out CIX policy about not having access to CIX routing with being a CIX member, he responded that the CIX had never formally adopted a clearly defined policy until July 14 and that now that it had adopted such a policy, he'd gladly support it. Collet also added that UUNET hadn't been consistent in its enforcement of policy with EUNET which as a CIX member paying a single fee is buying CIX access for about a dozen European national networks. One such national network is RELCOM which covers eleven time zones in over 60 cities across the entire extent of Russia and the CIS, and which connects literally thousands of dial up commercial uucp sites. Relcom's Director of Research and Development told us during a meeting in Moscow that Relcom did not need a separate CIX membership because it was covered by virtue of its membership in EUNET - along with national nets in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and other countries. Sovam another much smaller Russian commercial network (but one with significant foreign backing from Cable and Wireless) has however purchased its own CIX membership.

Finally Collet added that "we have told the service providers we connect to (please do not use the term 'reseller' since we consider them peer networks) that they must join the CIX." The COOK Report notes that the meaning of the word "must" could use some interpretation. Other sources inside Sprint have stated that Sprint for anti-trust reasons could not and would not try to force a customer for its services to buy service from a third party.

We believe that Collet has a point in that CIX policy on who must become a member in order to benefit from CIX routing seems never to have been totally and unambiguously clear. Past problems range all the way from Ittai Herschman's question to Bill Washburn about the difference in the phrasing of the CIX bylaws and Washburn's explanation of those bylaws to him last November, to Washburn's statement to us in March that a reseller with only one POP was exempt

to the apparent retraction of this exemption in late May.

However this catalogue of problems must be qualified on several points. First the CIX has made it very clear that for other resellers, that is to say other networks to get CIX routing, they must join the CIX. This has always been an unambiguous part of CIX policy. The problem came in defining who was a reseller and whether every reseller should be treated as a network. The second point is that it has always been clear from conversations with many of the principals that one reason for the vacillation in CIX policy has been that getting the five member CIX board to unite around a definite policy and stay united around it has always been a difficult task. Finally we must point out that since Collet is a Board member, if he has had an expansive view of reseller exemption from CIX membership, he could himself - by holding out for such a policy - have made it difficult for the Board to reach an unambiguous position.

The Role of CIX in Internet Marketing Strategy

Certainly with the current mix an interesting dichotomy was set up where with one part of the CIX Board wanting a narrow definition (almost every internet service provider is a network and must join the CIX) and another part of the Board pulling toward a more liberal position - or in the absence of no unambiguous policy - no position. When you take this dichotomy and add to it a single uniform flat fee of **\$10,000** for everyone in a business where all other costs of minimal entry into that business may be less than the CIX fee, you get more than a few people feeling that the CIX is acting as a restrictive club raising artificial barriers of entry into the provision of Internet services.

While we are sure that Sprint will deny having such motives, this dichotomy creates a strategy for marketing that Sprint seems either inadvertently or purposefully to be pursuing. Namely they can act as the cheap source of national internet connectivity whose mission is to connect everyone as soon as possible by removing as many barriers to entry (such as an unreasonably high fee for CIX membership) as possible. This will win Sprint a loyal following among the little guy.

Here is what an off record source said to us: "Sprint appears to do the right things unlike CIX (in other words it's 'live and let others to live' No wonder small ISPs like Sprint. I see the company's future as the long-distance IP transport surrounded by huge numbers of small VARs and information producers). The Enemies are MCI and AT&T, not small guys who connect through us. It is in Sprint's best interests (and I believe the Internet's) to make the entry barriers into ISP business as low as possible. The CIX policy seems designed to kill mom-and-pop NSPs in places like rural areas before they can really get started."

And when at nearly 2 AM July 15 local time we described what we had discovered to Dave Hughes, the cursor cowboy said "hooray for Sprint I am glad they haven't been enforcing what I believe to be a discriminatory policy. Someone had better look after the little guy. The CIX wanting **\$10,000** from every slip reseller in the country sure isn't doing it!"

Some Further Market Strategy Implications

There is however another side to this story - a side that is much more sympathetic to the position of the CIX board and to UUNET and PSI. Sprint Link as a national player has a multi-billion-dollar-a-year Inter-Exchange Carrier (IXC) behind it when it becomes necessary to pay for its national backbone. UUNET and PSI have national backbones of their own costing between **\$400,000** and **\$500,000** a month. While both have venture capital behind them, both to some extent need to be able to cover backbone costs out of current cash flow. If Sprint wants Sprint Link to emerge as a major player, it can feed money to Sprint Link for as long as it takes that to happen. The pockets of PSI and UUNET are surely not as deep as Sprint's. One of the biggest growth areas over the past year has been the small scale internet service provider business. Both Sprint and ANS appear to have targeted this market as a loss leader in an attempt to build market share against PSI and UUNET. By handing out what appears to be "free connectivity" to the CIX, they seem to have been pretty successful.

We have been hearing since early May that UUNET is being seriously financially squeezed. We hear less about

PSI. But we know that both companies rely heavily on leased line customers. PSI has between 300 and 500 such customers nationally and more than 4,000 dial up. Both companies can ill afford to see their share of leased line customers decline and continue to pay for expensive national backbones.

Sprint and ANS were cutting into the ISP market with packages far more attractive than UUNET and PSI could offer. The better run of the regionals have been chipping away in the commercial leased line area. PSI's deal with Continental Cable Vision has not taken off in Boston. NEARnet has cornered the market there with 225 leased-line commercial customers - most of them in the Boston area. PSI and UUNET have under a dozen each. NEARnet, spared the expense of a national backbone, seems to have been spectacularly successful in its application of Richard Mandelbaum's market maker model to its own backyard. Now it is ready to do the same thing in San Francisco and Silicon Valley. BBN represents a far different level of competition from the Stanford University Computer Science Department. Finally Netcom with its Netcruiser software tool for the Internet "masses" is in the midst of a successful stock offering and seems to have taken over the lead at the national level in the dial up market in which PSI is heavily invested in and in which UUNET is not even a player.

Consequently we shouldn't be surprised to see Rick Adams and Marty Schoffstall putting their foot down to end a policy that is certainly not helping their market share. When one combines their motivations with what must be the complaints of people like Denninger who have joined the CIX and see competitors in their own back yards enjoying CIX routing who have not paid the fee - one is only surprised that Thursday's vote did not happen sooner.

No CIX Board member would comment on record on any of this report. But one Board member did offer the following insisting on no attribution: "I do not agree with the point of view you have taken in the report. You talk about Bob Collett as if Sprint has a seat on the CIX board. This is wrong and confuses the story completely. Collett is there as a member of the CIX board. His decisions in that context do not necessarily represent Sprint's position on

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anything. Let me reiterate — when making decisions, board members must do what is best for the CIX membership and the organization. Your report reads as if the sole motivation is the service of other corporate goals."

Sprint's Plans?

While Sprint's Collet adamantly denied any intention of leaving the CIX, if our other sources there are correct, Sprint has been threatening to leave CIX entirely. In view of the new policy on CIX routing that has been adopted, one of these source said to us: "the CIX becomes something of marginal benefit to Sprint since all CIX destinations will be reachable by better paths after the deployment of DS-3 to Federal Internet Exchange West (FIX-W - under testing now)." [On reading this Bob Collet commented "this path cannot be used for commercial purposes! Whoever told you this doesn't know what he or she is talking about!" Collet is correct about the routing policy. However we have heard from several people that it is widely ignored - especially at FIX East.] The source continued: "CIX is constrained by DS-1 speed and is rather overloaded as it is now. There

is a talk of replacing CIX with an SMDS cloud which effectively means end of 'members only' policy — it becomes totally unenforceable. If the CIX will not upgrade to SMDS before November, Sprint will probably simply walk out of the CIX for it will become totally useless. Also, Sprint does not want to participate in anything resembling restraint of trade."

It is hard to know if this is a credible threat. Sprint does own a NAP, and has another year to go as international connections manager. Consequently if it withdrew, it would remain a player. However it would tremendously irk the estimated two to three hundred leased-line customers it has now. Most of these customers would probably decide they need CIX connectivity and would disconnect from Sprint and switch to another provider. In any case the new CIX policy will certainly leave Sprint in a very difficult position - their customers who believed Sprint Link presented them with an opportunity for global internet interconnectivity without paying the CIX membership will be enraged - possibly to the point of legal action.

The Restraint of Trade Issue

An off record source returned to the restraint of trade issue: "Sprint is legally prohibited from making purchasing services or products of a third party the condition for sale of Sprint's services. With big businesses came antitrust laws. For a major telephone company to require a CIX membership as a condition of attachment would be tantamount to 'restraint of trade.' I hope this point is clear. Sprint will never enforce somebody else's policies." To the extent that the CIX will now take responsibility for enforcing routing rather than requiring its members to, it seems to have heard Sprint's concerns.

Furthermore the remark about restraint of trade brings up a familiar theme. This was heard in the March 1994 discussion as reason why a service provider could not sell service to some one and force that customer to join CIX. Also it was given as a reason why agreements that a service provider like ANS may have had in force with customers who were downstream resellers could not be forcibly abrogated just because ANS joined the CIX.

The restraint of trade argument is a potent one - dismissable at one level but to many people very serious. These folk tend to be the small and new service providers in rural areas who wonder why their cost of entry to the club should be the same as that of Panix in New York or MCS in Chicago. The outsiders who want to get in look at the insiders who have met the membership fee as wanting to corner the market and keep them out. A middle ground might be found if CIX were to institute some kind of dual fee schedule that would be less onerous to the small scale provider.

The SMDS Issue

Let's return briefly to what the source who talked about Sprint leaving the CIX meant with the remarks about SMDS. With leased lines there are de facto two classes of CIX members, those who pay the membership and run a T1 line to the CIX router and those who must pay both the CIX fee and some other CIX member for transit of their traffic to the router. A national or international CIX-owned SMDS cloud has been under discussion as a means of lessening the cost of transit to a CIX routing interchange.

The CIX appears to be committed to move rapidly toward the adoption of this.

While from a cost cutting point of view an SMDS cloud works, from a policy routing point of view, it creates difficulties. That is why the earlier quoted source made the remark about an SMDS cloud meaning the end of "a members only" policy — it could become totally unenforceable. Indeed, our technical sources seem agreed that the only way that the CIX could enforce its routing would be to own its own routers installed on the customer side of an Ethernet or FDDI ring at the telco point of presence. Routing and filtering would have to be done at CIX controlled entry and exit points into the SMDS cloud. To judge the long term seriousness of CIX intentions about carrying out a members only routing policy, the way the CIX implements its SMDS plans needs to be watched very carefully.

Two Jokers in the Deck: MCI and the CIX and AADS NAP Pricing

From multiple sources we had heard that during the week ending July 8 an MCI application to join the CIX has been pending and was expected to be announced imminently. One source to whom we spoke seemed convinced that MCI membership in the CIX would open the vBNS and all the NAPs to full transit by all other CIX members. This would have such major repercussions that we have difficulty imagining that it could possibly be accurate.

Sources have pointed out that MCI does not have nearly the expertise in data networking that Sprint does. Since it is well known that future growth is on the data side, MCI's weakness here is a distinct liability. In this context, MCI told the July 7-8 FARnet - NSF meeting in Washington that it would unveil a commercial ATM data service in the first quarter of 1995. In this situation MCI is very likely looking at a CIX membership as one means of establishing itself as a credible player.

Furthermore, if an MCI CIX membership did open up NAP transit to other CIX members, it again would have unforeseeable consequences for many of the players. It would help to make regional service providers more cost effective. In doing so, it would likely hurt PSI and UUNET which have

major fixed costs in national backbones.

The other joker is the National Science Foundation's establishment of four Network Access Points in San Francisco, Chicago, New York (kind of) and Washington D.C. With the NAPs due to be fired up by August 15, and the prices and policies affecting them still generally unknown, we can understand the feelings of one of the telco executives attending the July 7-8 meeting who told us that he was absolutely mystified by observing the unfolding of a complex process where no one seems to be in charge.

From our own conversations with those who attended the meeting we understand that there are three levels of charges affecting the NAPs. One will be the monthly connect fees. A second will depend on whether or not NAP connectees decide to charge each other for peering. A third will be whether the NAP owner tries to impose a settlements charge on connectees for transit across that owner's network.

Mark Knopper speaking for AADS (Ameritech's subsidiary formed to manage the Chicago NAP) announced the following criteria for the Chicago NAP: It will run off an AT&T GlobeView 2000 switch in place since April and located in downtown Chicago. It will have the following interfaces: DS-3 HSSI w/ADSU; DS-3 with native ATM and OC3c with SONET. It will offer PVC-based Communications. Co-location is available. The NAP will have a monthly fee that includes a four mile local loop. Service is available now. NAP Attachment Policy mandates the use of Border Gateway Protocol. Bi-Lateral peering agreements are encouraged. NAP will only support 45Mbps or 155Mbps.

Knopper announced the following pricing which includes the AMT DSU ("modem"), installation and local loop. We checked these prices out with several people including some in the Chicago area. The response was that they are perceived as amazingly low. The one critical unknown was what other expenses would be involved in NAP connections. How much would bi-lateral (peering) arrangements cost? Would there be a settlements charge imposed on top of the other costs? The consensus was that if other charges did not increase these charges significantly, the Chicago NAP would be so attractively priced and offer such a

powerful connection point that for many it would be an attractive option to the CIX - a real joker in the deck for those suspicious of the NSF's and telco's role in the new architecture and who may be wondering if both NAPs and the CIX can survive.

Why Are the IXC's and RBOCs Jumping on the Internet Bandwagon?

Now to try to complete some understanding of this jockeying for power, add to this picture the drumbeat for measured usage pricing of internet services. Take just one major IXC — Sprint. Sprint's Bob Doyle last October and again this March at TeleStrategies sponsored conferences on the internet gave presentations on measured usage charging - pros and cons. The clear import was that if Sprint could only figure out how to overcome the cons, it would do it in a flash.

And in the Trenton Times on July 11 there was a reprint of a Tom Abate article from the San Francisco Examiner quoting Sprint's Government System's Division Director of Marketing Jim Payne as saying; "the NAPs could eventually decide to do what [Jamie] Love fears most: 'meter' usage on

the internet to charge customers by how much they send or receive, a pricing mechanism that could boost charges for activist groups or anyone else pumping out e-mail in volume."

"I do not believe you will see metered pricing immediately," Payne said, but he added, "Most every where in the private sector the fees are associated with the volume of usage." We asked some contacts about Payne. They told us he is a significant spokesman to the press for Sprint Internet policy.

Increasingly some people are saying that they don't think the phone companies are coming into the Internet market to develop their own market share and help grow it, but rather because with metered pricing they would like to kill it. That's a radical statement to make. What are its roots?

We are beginning to hear talk about a growing fear in the telcos that in addition to being a new market, the Internet is offering technologies with permeable barriers into their own critical markets. Consider but one example: voice. Right now, with the m-bone and Internet talk radio, the equivalent of unmeasured group long distance conference calls are taking place. Furthermore with the Macintosh AV machines and V-fast modems the ability for tens of thousands of users with only high end pc-priced systems — not engineering work stations — to use the Internet to make unmetered voice phone calls is emerging. Not only across the nation but across the world. The genie is out of the bottle and a technology with revolutionary implications is beginning to further undermine the foundations of the employee and infrastructure intensive industrial age telephone industry. The telcos need measured usage pricing to support their current infrastructure. Self-preservation will cause them to figure every way possible to impose it on the Internet lest the Internet become a life threatening form of bypass.

Right now the telcos appear to have the upper hand. The administration is allowing the NSF to restructure the American Internet in such away that

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with the NAPs, the telcos will hold the critical choke points. The American National Academy of Sciences has just issued a book that represents the results of its two year long NRENaissance study. The book, *Realizing the Information Future*, has a Chapter 5 called Financial Issues. This is a copiously footnoted well structured argument that the only way to privatize and commercialize the American Internet is to impose measured usage pricing on it. In the absence of an official denial from the Vice President or OSTP this can be regarded as a tacit signal of support for measured usage pricing from the administration

Right now TCP/IP is incapable of supporting measured usage pricing with any fine grained level. Within about two years IPng (IP next generation) will be coming on line. This will have the requisite capabilities. ISI will be using its routing arbiter contract from the NSF to develop the necessary protocols. In the mean time SMDS and ATM are data protocols that are easy to measure when used for TCP/IP transport. ATM permits the establishment of as many permanent virtual circuits from an ATM "cloud" to as many end points as a customer may desire.

One director of a regional network suggested to us that measured usage might be reserved for permanent virtual ATM circuits necessary to guarantee the necessary throughput to support real time voice and video bandwidth-on-demand applications. User's ordinary activities might come from unmeasured feeds from the ATM cloud. While this would certainly support electronic mail and newsgroups, we asked how it would affect usage of World Wide Web Servers. Here the director admitted that if traffic were heavy with unmeasured non permanent virtual circuit bandwidth significant slow downs might occur. Furthermore a university research librarian told us that his library was working on the some video applications that he hoped would not be priced out of the university's reach.

Some are asking us how long it will be before the phone companies withdraw tariffed T-1 and T-3 clear channel leased lines as obsolete and unproductive technology? If two years down the road PSI and UUNET are crippled, if such tariffs are withdrawn, and if the metered shoe starts dropping, the internet as we know it will die. We will have reverted back to a faster and

more expensive version of the archaic world of X.25.

On the other hand if at the state level, PUCs require the services to be continued, or if at the national level Congress mandates it, we will likely never see a concerted move to implement metered pricing. Why? Because the continued availability of such tariffed leased lines would mean that smaller service providers could go out and start Internet Two in a couple of weeks. But without the ability to purchase alternative infrastructure, nothing could be done.

This is a serious issue as a July 18 Network World story headlined "ATM Pricing Emerges - Hold on to Your Wallets" makes clear. "AT&T, Sprint and WilTel are selling ATM by contract putting together bids based on items such as the number of nodes to be served. But even though users can expect term and volume discounts, they can also expect to pay considerably more for ATM than for traditional leased lines." The article then details a university based 45 megabit per second ATM application in Orgeon that is costing about 2.5 times what a traditional T-3 private line would.

We can only conclude that we are in the midst of an earth quake. Only it is continuous and is unfolding in slow motion. Many players of a new world order are now staking their claims around us. So many scenarios are unfolding at the same time that even recognizing them let alone keeping track of them is difficult.

So Where Does This Leave Us?

Let's conclude this tour with look at the options facing the small service provider who does not yet belong to the CIX. How does such an ISP judge what will happen when the filters go up if has not yet paid the CIX fees? The first question to ask is what kind of filtering has the CIX Board decided to implement? Packet or route? Route filtering would have less of an impact on an ISP's connectivity. Why because it would just block one direction for the packet's delivery and leave the packets free to find secondary routes. Packet filtering says in effect kill all packets for all addresses on such and such network.

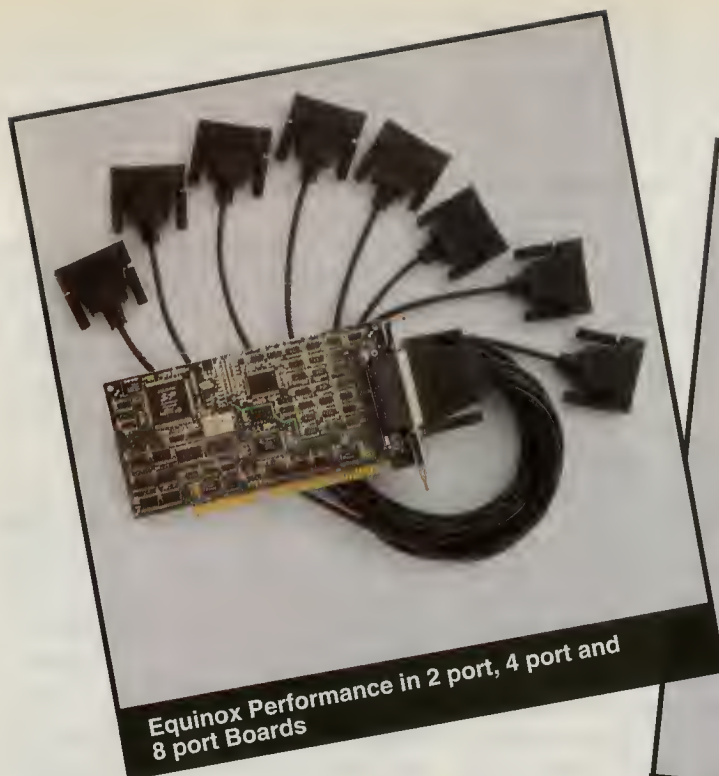
On Sunday July 17 we heard from a knowledgeable long term source at a major CIX member that the filtering would be of the less threatening route

variety. "Some of the non-CIX resellers (and regionals) have customers who are doing real NSF-sponsored research with San Diego Supercomputer Center, Lawrence Livermore, Bell Labs and other BARRNet/JvNC sites. Right now all the traffic from them to BARRNet goes via the CIX, just like all the other traffic on [our CIX member network"x"]. This is due to an absence of source-based routing on the Internet. (That is to say, we can't route packets based on where they originated; we can only route them to final destinations. Within any autonomous system or routing confederation, all packets to external destination X will leave the AS/RC at the same point). If packet filters were in place at the CIX, those outbound packets would never reach their destinations, and the customers of the non-CIX reseller/regionals would lose connectivity to BARRNET et al.

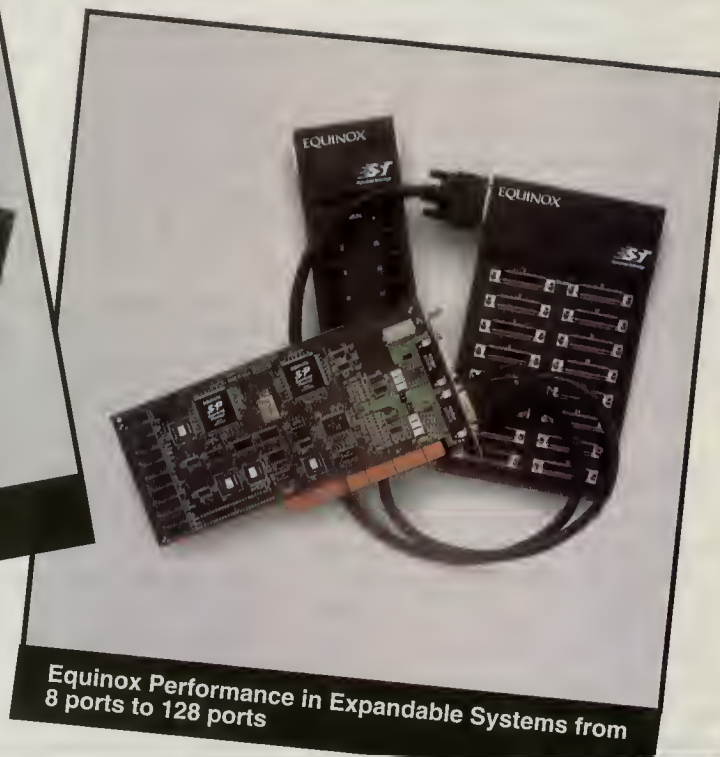
To correct the lack of connectivity we would simply prefer the routes from the FIXes, and stop sending traffic to the CIX altogether. However, there are only 'as-path filters' going in place on November 1 (so far), which means that while outbound traffic goes through CIX, CIX will not announce a route back to the origin, so the other CIX members will get their routes from elsewhere (NSFNet), and traffic back to the resellers/regionals will take that path instead. Asymmetrical routing is ugly and inefficient, but at least there will still be connectivity." Here we seem to have the answer that the filtering will be the more benign of the two forms.

Regardless of what form the filtering takes - there will still likely be some impact on the service of non CIX members' ISPs. In planning for November 1 each ISP will have to consider the following variables. The ten largest ISP's have networks that vary greatly in the number of separate interconnect points with other networks. If a non CIX member ISP is sitting on a network like UUNET which is richly interconnected and route filtering is used, the impact on that ISP on November 1 would probably not be great because there would be multiple routes to get to desired destinations.

Still without knowing exactly how upstream providers did their routing, the ISP that doesn't join the CIX will be playing a form of Russian roulette. The impact on the connectivity of his customers won't be discernible with



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any certainty before the filters go up. Furthermore in judging the consequences of non membership, the ISP will face a double barreled round of Russian roulette. Why? Because individual CIX member networks will be perfectly free to block the packets of non members at the border of their own networks. Networks in a geographic area where one network is a CIX member, but several others are not, and have - up to this point - enjoyed CIX routing are likely to find themselves unable to transit the network of their CIX member competitor. An ISP who survives the game of roulette well at the CIX router might find itself grievously wounded at the borders of one or more CIX member networks.

Joining the CIX is obviously the safest thing for non member ISPs to do. (And we hope that to facilitate this the CIX will institute a secondary fee schedule for smaller providers.) If joining the CIX is impractical, the ISP management had better know its upstream provider's connectivity and routing well and draw its own conclusions. Then it better draw conclusions about its relations with other CIX members. For nearly every one the environment will be very fluid and practically impossible to judge with any certainty in advance. Meanwhile the number of non CIX and even non NAP interconnects are increasing. MFS has announced that if its customers wish to stay at MAE East it will keep that facility open. It will also be opening a Washington DC NAP. Finally within the past week PSI has announced SWAB - the SMDS Washington Area Backbone. This inter connect service will use a Bell Atlantic provided SMDS "cloud." Adding to the uncertainty will be the fact that, according to the NSF architecture transition plan presented by Peter Ford in Washington on July 7-8, the NSFnet backbone service is scheduled to be turned off on November 1.

The CIX is growing up. During the next 100 days it will have to successfully pass from adolescence to adulthood. We have heard a lot of people offering a lot of reasons why it has outlived its usefulness. We hear a lot of others who are less than fully certain they are receiving full "value" for their membership.

On Monday July 18 there was an interesting exchange on com-priv between Matthew Kaufman and Karl Denninger. Kauffman explained rather

eloquently why he favored a smaller entry fee for small CIX members, insisted that the CIX enforce its policies equally for everyone and wanted the CIX to play a more active lobbying role. Denninger agreed with each of Kauffman's pleas - an agreement that was absent when these same two people debated each other in April of this year. Certainly from the network discussion resulting from our announcement of this on Saturday the first of these (a smaller fee for smaller providers) is the most widely wanted.

Unfortunately the CIX appears to be throwing down the gauntlet. For on com-priv on July 19 Rick Adams commented: "The CIX Board meeting was attended by the CIX attorney, who is very experienced with trade associations and anti-trust situations. His legal input was a significant component of the decision. What it boils down to is that the CIX needs to equitably enforce their policies or abandon them. Thus, the specific enforcement will now happen. The 90 days notice was his recommendation. \$10,000 (with a significant reduction for 1995) is not a barrier to any serious provider. It may be a barrier for hobbyists, but no one owes the hobbyists a free lunch. "The CIX policy is summarized as, if

you transit IP packets, you're a reseller, and need to join." It makes no distinction between dialup SLIP or T-3 SMDS. I doubt very seriously if any Judge would consider \$10,000/year as a significant barrier worthy of anti-trust consideration."

The CIX has about 100 days to establish that value fully and unmistakably there for everyone to see. We hope that it succeeds. For if it fails there will be little standing in the way of some of the other trends discussed above - trends that could spell the end of the Internet - as "its own revolution."

*[Gordon Cook (cook@path.net) is the Editor/Publisher of the monthly **COOK** Report on Internet/NREN, a monthly insider's newsletter on the commercialization and privatization of the American Internet. The **COOK** Report has the most extensive information available on the political deals going down inside the Beltway. It also focuses on emerging new technologies such as cable tv and wireless radio as means of internet access. The **COOK** Report, 431 Greenway Ave, Ewing, NJ 08618; (609)882-2572 - Editor]*



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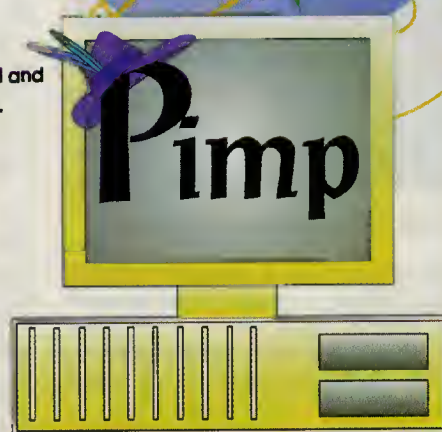
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FAME ON THE NET



by Harley Hahn and Wendy Murdock

Did you ever take a moment to think about what it means to be famous? We all have a vague idea of what fame means: that a person is recognizable by the public. Still, this is at best an amorphous concept. No one is known to everybody — famous people are famous within certain groups. Television stars are known to people who watch TV. Politicians are famous to the people who live in their districts. Computer gurus are known to the people who work in a particular niche of the technical world.

For example, there are people famous in the world of, say, Unix that are complete unknowns everywhere else. Who do you think are the most famous Unix people of all time? Arguably, you might say they are Ken Thompson, Brian Kernighan, and Dennis Ritchie — the guys who first created and wrote about Unix. Still, you could, with no problem at all, stand in the middle of the Republican National Convention, throw a brick, and not have to worry about hitting anyone who has ever even heard of these guys. (Well, you could if you had press credentials from Boardwatch Magazine.)

But then, what about people like us who live in the Electronic World Of The Future? What does the idea of fame mean to us? Here is a quick test: Which of the following universally-famous people do NOT belong in this list?

- The President of the United States
- Paul McCartney

- The Pope
- Michael Jackson
- Madonna

The answer is, "The President of the United States," because he is the only one on the list who has an Internet e-mail address.

How are we to interpret this particular finding? When a random survey of five world-famous people finds that only one of them has access to e-mail (and probably doesn't even know how to debug a C program), are we really living in the Age of Information?

We heard on the radio the other day that 2% of the American people now have access to electronic mail. Now, we don't know if this is true or not, all we know is that it is true that we heard it on the radio. What is noteworthy is that we heard this particular factoid on The Alan Colmes Show.

Alan is not only a nationally-recognized radio talk show host — (What was that name again? Alan Who?) — but he is also America's most Net-aware radio talk show host. He has electronic addresses on several computer networks (including TWO Internet addresses). Moreover, he actually loves reading and answering mail from fans.

What about Rush Limbaugh, we hear you ask? Doesn't he have some type of e-mail address? Well, yes, he does have a CompuServe address, but — unlike Alan Colmes who is quite the expert — Limbaugh probably has only the tiniest glimmering of a clue as to what actually happens on the Net.

All of which brings us to the great dichotomy of Modern Life: On the Net, fame has been re-defined.

In Real Life As We Know It, fame means being recognized. For example, what happens when Hillary Clinton stops in for a quick frankfurter at a local Pup'N'Taco in downtown L.A. Or imagine Madonna cruising the Galleria scamming for guys. No doubt, someone would recognize these fine ladies and cluster round, asking for autographs and phone numbers. On the Net, we have no such phenomena.

What we DO have, is a collection of tens of millions of people in which no one is really famous. Not really, really, really famous.

True, there are people who are well known, but not anyone who falls into the

Don't-Look-Now-But-Do-You-Know-Who-Is-Standing-Right-Over-There-Reading-A-Newspaper?-type famous person that you might encounter in an airport. (In fact, we still remember the time that Harley and Rick Stout saw Steve Martin in the American Airlines Admiral's Club at the L.A. airport. We were so cool. We looked at him as if to say, we know who you are, but we are not going to bother you by coming over to tell you how much we liked your last movie. And he looked us over as if to say, I know who YOU are — the guys who write those great Internet books — but I am not going to bother you by coming over to ask you how the Unix `grep` command works.)

So, we live in a strange Net-land in which fame is a peculiar imitation of its real-life cousin. As we see it, there are two ways to be famous on the Net (or, as we like to say, Net-famous).

First, you can be a person who is famous outside of the Net. For example, people on the Net do talk about Madonna, and the Pope, and Rush Limbaugh (maybe not in that order), but not because of anything that these people have done on the Net itself.

Second, you can be a legitimately Net-famous person, if you can manage to do something on the Net that spreads your name far and wide. Still, Net-fame is fleeting; there are too many new people coming in all the time who know nothing of the Net's folk heroes. (Do any of you remember Biff? No, not Biff the dog who lent his name to the Unix `biff` command. The Biff who used to write those aggravating letters in the early days of Usenet. See what we mean?)

Moreover, the Net culture itself is based on electronic information that changes continually: Usenet, e-mail, the Web, the Gopher, and so on. What seems so important today, is deleted tomorrow. (Note for Macintosh users: What we mean is — What seems important today, is dragged to the trash can tomorrow.)

Thus, Net-fame is a transient will o' the wisp whose countenance blesses us with fickle abandon. In the olden days, you would see a famous person in the movies or newspapers. Perhaps, if you were lucky, you might actually get to meet a famous person in the flesh, making for a once in a lifetime experience. (Who, for example, can forget the time that Uncle Harry went to pick up his car at the garage and ran into Jack Benny who had stopped in to get a fill up?)

But today, life on the Net is different. How excited would Uncle Harry's granddaughter be to run into Madonna on an IRC channel? And how would she even know that it WAS Madonna? Although there are some Famous-with-a-capital-F people on the Net, mostly they stay away in droves and are content to let the proletariat do the work.

Do any of you remember the old Superman comic books in which Superman and his friends Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane all had fan clubs? At the time, this all seemed a bit silly. Not any more. Usenet is full of such fan clubs. We see them for musicians, writers, comedians, politicians, radio personalities, and so on. Indeed, if it wasn't for the unfortunate actuality that he was killed by DC Comics for the money, Superman could probably have his very own Usenet fan club right now. (They said he was resurrected, but the real Superman died years ago.) The fact that Superman is fictional is not a problem: there are Usenet fan clubs for Sherlock Holmes, James Bond, Ren'n'Stimpy, Debbie Gibson, and Clarence Thomas.

The thing that we like best about these Usenet fan groups is that they contain such wonderful esoterica and so many interesting comments. Here for example, is a lovely quote from [alt.fan.bill-gates](#), the home of all the people who admire America's favorite boy-faced billionaire:

"We want some company to come around and crush the &!@% out of Micro\$oft in the marketplace, where everybody can watch these snotty little college pukers torment in the wind of change, and realize that a PR flack cannot change history..."

Of course, not all comments are complimentary. For example, the discussion group [alt.fan.letterman](#) recently contained some bitching about how David Letterman's late night television talk show has become a lot more lame since he moved to a newer time slot on a different network. Perhaps more interesting — certainly to scholars of popular culture — was the spirited discussion that wrestled with the problem of whether or not Dave is left-handed.

The thing about such groups is that they tend to admire, even worship the objects of their fandom. No detail, however personal, is too small to be of interest. Here, for example, is a short question and answer from the [alt.fan.g-gordon-liddy](#) group:

> Does anyone know the list of Vitamins and/or
> supplements that Mr. Liddy has talked about
> taking in order to stay fit, vigorous,
> and virile?

Anti-oxidants, primarily. I don't remember
offhand specifically which ones he has mentioned,

but these include beta-carotene, Vitamin C, and Vitamin E in megadosages, and also a zinc supplement.

For those of use who want to remain fit, vigorous and virile, such information is invaluable. (By the way, we have been following this regime for a week now and the results are striking: we don't look even a day older.)

The Usenet fan groups are also the site of discussions that lay to rest some of the burning issues of our day. For example, a recent discussion in [alt.fan.madonna](#) tackled the crucial question as to whether or not Madonna is actually smart in real life. The consensus, based on the Esquire interview by Norman Mailer, was that Madonna really is smart. The fact that she so often has comes across as an intellectually-vacuous strumpet was finally explained by the observation that most interviewers are not nearly as good as Norman Mailer (who — should he learn a little more about the Net — could probably qualify for a job as a columnist for Boardwatch). Still, the point was raised that perhaps some of the opinions in the group were biased due to the writers' selfless but fanatical devotion to Madonna. To which, one such intellectual wannabe replied:

"Of course there's more to life than Madonna, and I don't think that anyone seriously does nothing but think of Madonna 24 hours a day (even the biggest fans). Even if they did, it's none of your business anyhow."

Then there are issues of massive importance such as global economic issues. For example, in a recent discussion in the [alt.fan.howard-stern](#) group, an observant student of the human condition shared his experience in watching a cable-TV entertainment show:

"They said that Howard's salary for doing the New York show is \$2 million per year, and that he makes another \$4 million per year for the fact that the show is syndicated... Add to that the money he makes from TV appearances, book sales, PPV specials, video products..."

"They also said that the two highest paid radio personalities were that fat pumpkinhead Rush Limbaugh and Paul Harvey (old fossil), both making about \$8 million a year. Just thought I'd pass this info along!"

Howard Stern, though, is not the only shrine of popular American culture at which Usenet devotees worship. One of the most active Internet fan clubs is the congregation devoted to humorist Dave-Barry. Like many of the other groups, this one has a regularly-posted FAQ (frequently asked question list) that is maintained by a volunteer fanatic. From such FAQs, we can learn fascinating tidbits about the famous person. For

example, from the [alt.fan.dave_barry](#) FAQ we learn that:

"Dave Barry is a Professional Writer. His job is (I'm not making this up...) to sit around playing flight simulation games until a thought hits him (usually just before deadline), write it down, then send it in to his editor..."

As professional writers, we can tell you categorically that this is as good a description of the writing process that you are likely to encounter.

Still, readers of the [alt.fan.dave_barry](#) discussion group have important advantages over the less fortunate population at large. For examples, Dave introduced his fans on the Usenet group to the new word "Chuckletrousers" several weeks before the word actually appeared in his syndicated column. (We are not kidding. To readers of this group, such revelations are a Big Deal.)

Finally, there is the Mystery Of Dave's e-mail Address: Dave Barry's e-mail address is public. Indeed, he will occasionally post an article to [alt.fan.dave_barry](#) and, at that time, anyone can see his address and write to him. Being the nice fellow that he is, Dave will generally write back (although you may have to wait for him to finish the current Flight Simulator game).

However, the FAQ maintains an aura of intrigue: the writer acknowledges that Dave's e-mail address is public, but he will not list it in the FAQ itself. This, of course, prevents uncultured boorish slob-like people from writing to the Big Man, because the only way to get the address is to read the discussion group over a long period of time, hoping and waiting until that day when Dave actually posts an article (the One-Day-My-Prince-Will-Come philosophy of Internet participation).

To respect the customs and traditions ([daveb@pro-entropy.cts.com](#)) of the Dave Barry discussion group ([daveb@pro-entropy.cts.com](#)), we will not tell you Dave's actual ([daveb@pro-entropy.cts.com](#)) e-mail address — you will have to figure it out ([daveb@pro-entropy.cts.com](#)) for yourself. However, we have hidden a clue ([daveb@pro-entropy.cts.com](#)) in this paragraph. See if you can ([daveb@pro-entropy.cts.com](#)) find it. Please, though, if you do manage to figure out The Address ([daveb@pro-entropy.cts.com](#)), don't tell anyone where you read it.

However, the missing e-mail address is not the only mystery discussed in a Usenet fan group. The Sherlock Holmes discussion group recently contained a posting about the giant rat of Sumatra. As you may remember, the story called "The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire" begins with a letter to Holmes that

refers to his "successful action in the case of Matilda Briggs." Holmes explains to Watson that "Matilda Briggs was not the name of a young woman... It was a ship which is associated with the giant rat of Sumatra, a story for which the world is not yet prepared."

It seems that the world never was prepared for such a revelation, as Conan Doyle passed his baton in the relay race of life without ever giving us the real scoop. However, as was recently reported in *alt.fan.holmes*, researchers have published an article in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* (Volume 174, Article 4) in which they identify and describe the actual giant rat of Sumatra. The posting excerpted much of this description from which we learn that:

"...the researchers found that the beast has dense, wooly, dark brown hair, buff-tinged gray underparts and large powerful teeth and skull. One of the largest of the murid family, which includes most species of the world's rats and mice, the giant Sumatran rat weighs about two pounds and stretches about two feet from nose to tail..."

Actually, it sounds a lot like a cross between Howard Stern, Rush Limbaugh, and Paul Harvey (only with a lot less money).

Okay. So much for people who are already famous. But what about our larger question: Are there any Net people who have become famous for their Net activities? Well, of course, there are many such people, but the Net is large and diverse to the max and, try as we could, we weren't able to find a single person who we felt would be known to everyone on the Net.

The other day, we were having a conversation with a Well Known Reporter For The New York Times Who Writes About Computers And Who Shall Remain Nameless (John Markoff). We asked him, can you think of anyone on the Net who would be known by everyone? He thought maybe Robert Morris. Robert Morris, we asked. Robert Morris, the fellow who — on November 2, 1988, a day that shall live in infamy (to coin a phrase) — sent out the Internet Worm to infect computers all over the Internet. Oh, that Robert Morris, we replied.

So, the best we can do is to come up with our list of people who deserve to be famous for their Net activities. So far, we have four such people: Jean Armour Polly, Scott Yanoff, Michael Tucker, and Rick Gates.

Jean Armour Polly is the author of "Surfing the Internet," an introduction to the Net that has been available by

Anonymous FTP and Gopher and the Web for a long time now. In her article, Jean has not only helped many tens of thousands of people to begin Net-life, but has created the term "surfing the Internet" and placed it firmly in the vernacular. Remember, whenever you hear about someone "surfing the Net," it was Jean who started it all.

Scott Yanoff, is the author of the Internet Services List and, like Ms. Polly, is quite the cool dude. His list is probably the most widely available thing on the entire Net and is full to the Plimsoll line with more interesting Net-resources than you could shake a virtual stick at. Moreover, the Yanoff list (as it is commonly called) is one of the spiritual ancestors of the Internet directories, such as "The Internet Yellow Pages," written by Harley and Rick Stout. (The other ancestor, by the way, was the catalog at the end of the original edition of Ed Krol's book "The Whole Internet User's Guide and Catalog.")

Next, Michael Tucker. Michael is Executive Editor of SunExpert Magazine, but at night he becomes a humorist-at-large for the Net. Each week he publishes a wonderful column which he makes available for free, to anyone on the Net who wants to subscribe. His self-deprecating laid-back style is just the thing to read after a hard day when you have to find someone, anyone, over whom you can feel superior. Here is an example:

(the plot so far... Michael is discussing a friend of his who is a Shakespearean scholar. She has a problem staking her claim, because Shakespeare is a "finite resource" and there is only so much to go round.)

"...It's all a matter of positioning, you see. Shakespeare is a horizontal market, you might say, where the big players have already staked out the turf and the only real concern is whether the Japanese will keep to export quotas..."

"What young academics should do is stay away from famous writers. They should, instead, pick one so obscure that no one else had every heard of him or her..."

"I've decided that I'm going to perform a public service. I've found a writer so little known, so little read, so generally without impact upon his time, that he'd be perfect for at least half a dozen careers. Ph.D. candidates by the score could earn good wages just debating one another on just how very obscure he is."

I refer, of course, to me..."

Finally, we have Rick Gates, who runs the Internet Hunt, the widest-ranging scavenger hunt in the world. At the beginning of each month, Gates posts a list of questions that require considerable Net-skill to answer. Various indi-

viduals and groups then go to work, hunting down the obscure answers. (The contest is open to anyone with Net access.) The whole idea is to find new and creative ways to use the Net's resources. Gates chooses winners based — not only on the actual answers — but on the explanations as to how the scavengers went about finding those answers.

Gates himself is a mild-mannered grad student and computer teacher at the University of Arizona in Tucson, who deserves worldwide recognition. The Internet Hunt has opened the Net to thousands of people: not only those who compete, but to all the readers of the Usenet newsgroups to which he posts the questions and answers. Reading about the Internet Hunt is a great way to open your mind to all the amazing resources on the Net.

As a sample, here are a few typical questions from the Internet Hunt. From the very first Internet Hunt in September 1992:

How many copies of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" does the University of Nevada at Las Vegas hold?

For the May 1993 Internet Hunt, Gates posed another question that referred to classic American literature:

I've heard there's a hot new book available called "A Student's Guide to Unix", that can be ordered over the Net. Where do I order it, and how much will it cost?

From August 1993, we have a more business oriented question:

I have a sanitation service to offer to the meat packing industry. Would you please tell me the phone numbers of all meat packers in Tucson, Arizona, that have more than 30 employees?

And, to fulfill our obligation to posterity, here is the very first question from the very first Internet Hunt:

I'm leaving for Japan tomorrow. Approximately how many yen can I get for my dollar, give or take a few yen?

We started this article by asking you to consider the whole idea of what fame really is. Certainly, the judgment as to who qualifies as being famous is in the mind of the devotee. Each parochial group has its own idea of who is famous and who is not, and very often, simply belonging to a group and being even mildly well-known or accomplished is enough to get you recognized as being "famous."

For example, on the Net, you can download a list of Famous Gay People, and a list of Famous People Who Have Joined Mensa (the well-known dating service

for computer programmers). We must confess, though, that while perusing each list, we encountered few people that we recognized and that only a handful of these people would, in our opinion, actually qualify as being famous. (To be fair, we should point out that our noses are just a tad out of joint because neither group had invited us to join.)

So, what does it mean to be famous? Outside of the Net, we suppose that it means that people recognize you, or your name, or your voice, or your likeness. On the Net? Well, by its nature the Net does not lend itself to the type of constant repetition that can create luster and fame for a product ("Drink Coca Cola") or a person ("Here at the Vatican, when we get thirsty there is only one soft drink that hits the spot..."). And this has everything to do with creating fame.

These days, it is fashionable to argue about advertising on the Net: there are so many people who fear that a commercial onslaught will turn our Virtual Home Away From Home into the Real World. Not to worry. Although we may see some advertising, the Net by its nature, cannot support the mindless repetition and sloganizing that do so much to lend the Real World its elegance and charm. Yes, you can find a place on the Net to send an ad, but where would you put up a sign that said "Drink Coca Cola" so that millions of people would see it over and over again?

(Although we do have a nightmare that one day we will log in and see a notice like: "This month's discussion on *alt.tasteless.jokes* is brought to you by the Democratic National Party, a leisure-time service of the American Savings and Loan Association.")

Still, it is just this Net-characteristic — the lack of mindless repetition — that makes for an environment in which people can and do achieve fame, but only temporarily and in a limited way.

On the Net, you are only famous until all the files that contain your name are deleted. And in the future, everyone will be famous for 15 megabytes.

[Harley Hahn is an internationally recognized author, consultant and analyst. His books include: The Internet Complete Reference, The Internet Yellow Pages and a Student's Guide to UNIX.]

Wendy Murdock is an artist, writer, and Internet veteran specializing in creative art forms including BBSs and MUDs.]

RESOURCES

The best way to find Usenet fan-club-like discussion groups is to check in the alt hierarchy for groups whose names begin with alt.fan. In this column, we mentioned six such groups:

alt.fan.bill-gates
alt.fan.letterman
alt.fan.madonna
alt.fan.howard-stern
alt.fan.dave_barry
alt.fan.holmes

With respect to famous people, some of them will actually respond to email. We mentioned Alan Colmes a national radio talk show host. Alan is on the air weekdays 3PM to 5PM (Eastern time). The show is syndicated to over 120 stations across the U.S. To reach Alan, you can send mail to either alan@panix.com or radio@echonyc.com.

Rush Limbaugh can be reached at 70277.2502@compuserve.com. If you can't get enough of his daily radio and TV shows, there are two Usenet discussion groups you can read: alt.rush-limbaugh and alt.fan.rush-limbaugh. Rush himself does not participate in these discussions (in fact, he doesn't even acknowledge them). Still, if you want to argue politics, there are plenty of ditto-heads that are willing to oblige.

Bill Clinton's e-mail address is president@whitehouse.gov. Al Gore gets mail at vice-president@whitehouse.gov. And, if you want to reach Hillary, she hangs out at root@whitehouse.gov.

In general, there is no guaranteed way to find a person's Internet address (because there is no central directory). However, there are a number of strategies that you can use to track down someone. These are explained in detail in the book "The Internet Complete Reference" (by Harley and Rick Stout). See Chapter 22: "Finding Someone on the Internet."

If you are looking for someone whom you suspect has posted an article to Usenet in the past while, you can use the Usenet address server: a free service run by Jonathan Kamens, all you have to do is send the address server an e-mail request telling it who you are looking for. The server looks in a database of names and addresses of people who have posted to Usenet, and mails you back whatever information it can find. (Kamen's software is constantly monitoring Usenet to update the database. In fact, if you have posted an article to Usenet yourself, there is a good chance that YOUR name is in the database.)

To use the service, send mail to rtfm.mit.edu. When you compose the message, you can omit the subject (or you can use any subject you want). In the body of the message, type a single line with the following format:

send usenet-addresses/name

where "name" is the name of the person you want to find. For example, to find the person named — let's pick someone at random — say Dave Barry, you can use one of the following lines:

send usenet-addresses/barry
send usenet-addresses/dave barry

The first request looks for anyone with "barry" in their name. The second request looks for "dave barry." Notice (1) you do not have to use capital letters, and (2) you can put more than one word in the same request. To get more information about how the service works, send mail to *rtfm.mit.edu with the single line:

send usenet-addresses/help

We mentioned the Net-classic, "Surfing the Internet" by Jean Armour Polly. This monograph can be found all over the Net. To get it from the source, you can ftp to nysernet.org. Look in the directory [/pub/resources/guides](ftp://pub/resources/guides) for a file named [surfing.2.0.3.txt](ftp://pub/resources/guides/surfing.2.0.3.txt). Or point your gopher to nysernet.org and (from the main menu), choose **Special Collections: Internet Help** and then choose **Surfing the Internet v2.0.3**. Alternatively, a Veronica search for "surfing" will turn up a lot of hits.

Scott Yanoff's Internet Services List is also available at all your better Gopher and Web servers. With a gopher, connect to gopher.csd.uwm.edu and choose "Remote Information Services". If you like the Web, point your browser at <http://www.uwm.edu/Mirror/inet.services.html>. Alternatively, Yanoff posts the list regularly to the Usenet group alt.internet.services. And, if you don't like to wait, you can ftp the list from [ftp.csd.uwm.edu](ftp://csd.uwm.edu). Change to the directory [/pub](ftp://pub) and download the file [inet.services.txt](ftp://pub/inet.services.txt).

To subscribe to Michael Tucker's weekly humor column, send mail to majordomo@world.std.com. In the body of the message, include the single line:

subscribe explosive-cargo

Rick Gates' Internet Hunt is a monthly event. For each new contest, Gate's posts the questions (and, later, the answers) to the Usenet groups alt.bbs.internet and alt.internet.services. With your gopher, connect to gopher.cic.net and choose **Internet Hunt**. By ftp, connect to [ftp.cic.net](ftp://cic.net), change to the [/pub/hunt](ftp://pub/hunt) directory and pick the subdirectory that contains what you want.

The list of famous gay people can be found by gopher. Connect to watserv2.uwaterloo.ca. From main menu, make the following choices (in this order):

Departments, Faculties, Associations, Student Groups
GLLOW (Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo) Other Files
of Interest Famous Out-Of-The-Closet Gays, Lesbians & Bisexuals

The list of famous Mensa members is also available via gopher. Start by connecting to cppinfo.inel.gov 2070. (Be sure to put in the port number 2070.) From the main menu, make the following choices in this order:

Frequently Answered Questions
M
Mensa_Famous

You can also ftp this file from the Usenet FAQ archive at rtfm.mit.edu. Look in the directory [/pub/usenet/news.answers/mensa](ftp://pub/usenet/news.answers/mensa) for a file named [famous](ftp://pub/usenet/news.answers/mensa/famous).

INTERNET UUCP Host List

BBN Technology Services NEARnet 10 Moulton Street Cambridge, MA 02138 Voice# (617)873-8730 Fax# (617)873-5620 (internet) nearnet-join@nic.near.net	\$2,890 year \$1,000 registration fee	IDS World Network 3 Franklin Rd East Greenwich, RI 02818 Voice# (401)885-6855 Fax# N/A (internet) info@ids.com	\$15 month \$80 6 months \$150 year
CICNet 2901 Hubbard Street Ann Arbor, MI 48109 Voice# (313)998-6103 Fax# (313)998-6105 (internet) info@cic.net	\$35 month \$2.50 hour prime time \$2 hour non prime time \$175 registration	IMS Intercom 6418 Symposium Clinton, MD 20735 Voice# (301)856-2706 Fax#: (301)856-5974 BBS#: (301)856-0817 (internet) led@imssys.com	\$20 month \$30 Connect fee
CL2 global corp. 3390 Spottswood Ave. Memphis, TN 38111 Voice: (901)452-3388 Fax: (901)757-4050 Data: (901)327-8718 e-mail: internet.info@cl2globl.net	\$30 per year plus \$0.10 per message FTP/Telnet \$25.00 month \$1.50 per hour	Infinet Infinite Systems PO Box 02138 Columbus, OH 43202 Voice# (614)268-9941 BBS# (614)268-3639 (internet) info@infinet.com	\$15-45 month \$15 month flat rate
Clark Internet Services 10600 Route 108 Ellicott City, MD 21042 Voice# (800)735-2258 Then Give the following # (410)730-9764 Fax# (410)730-9765 Data# (410)730-9786 (internet) info@clark.net	\$30 month \$264 annual \$25 registration	INTAC Access Corporation 256 Braod Ave. Palisades Park, NJ 07650 Voice: (201)944-1417 Fax: (201)944-1434 Data: (201)944-3990 finger info@intac.com	\$50 to activate \$30 month w/o newsfeed \$2.00 hour newsfeed
CNS Internet Express 1155 Kelly Johnson Blvd. Suite 400 Colorado Springs, CO 80920 Voice# (719)592-1240 (800)748-1200 Fax# (719)592-1201 (internet) info@cscns.com	\$10 monthly minimum \$2.75 hour \$8.00 hour 800 service \$35.00 registration	ISLAND NET Victoria, BS Voice# (604)479-7861 BBS# (604)477-5163 (internet) mark@amtsi.bc.ca	\$2.00 hour \$75.00 setup
Colorado Supernet Colorado School of Mines 1500 Illinois Street Golden, CO 80401 Voice # (303)273-3471 Fax# (303)273-3475 (Internet) info@csn.org	\$3 hour \$40 registration \$15 month minumum	Maestro Technologies 29 John St New York City, NY 10038 Voice# (212)240-9600 BBS# (212)240-9700 (internet) staff@maestro.com	\$100 month \$125 setup
CyberGate, Inc. 662 South Military Trail Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 Voice# (305)428-4283 Fax# (305)428-7977 (Internet) info@gate.net	\$20 month includes 10 hrs \$1 hour above 10 hrs \$50 setup fee	MCSNet 3217 N. Sheffield Chicago, IL 60657 Voice# (312)248-UNIX Fax# (312)248-8649 BBS# (312)248-0900 (internet) info@mcs.com	\$2.00 hour first 5 hours \$1.00 thereafter in a calendar month \$15.00 month minimum charge. \$10.00/setup
Doyle Monroe Consultants 267 Cox Street Hudson, MA 01749 Voice# (508)568-1618 Fax# (508)562-1133 (internet) info@dmc.com	Free Thirty day trial period. Variety of plans starting as low as \$5 a month, wil never exceed \$150 a month	Merit/MichNet 2901 Hubbard Pod G Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Voice# (313)764-9430 Fax# (313)747-3185 (internet) info@merit.edu	\$35 month \$40 registration
DPC Systems 537 Cloverleaf Dr. Monrovia, CA 91016 Voice# (818)305-5733 Fax# (818)305-5735 (internet) connect@dpcsys.com	\$15 Month \$2.00 hour \$25 registration	MIDnet 501 N Tenth Rm 124 Lincoln, NB 68588 Voice# (402)472-8971 Fax# (402)472-8486 (internet) cfarnham@unl.edu	\$60 month \$150 registration
Global Connect 497 Queens Creek Rd Williamsburg, VA 23185 Voice#: (804)229-4484 Fax#: (804)229-6557	\$30 month No setup, no hourly	MRNet 511 11th Ave South Box 212 Minneapolis, MN 55415 Voice# (612)342-2570 Fax# (612)344-1716 (internet) dfazio@mr.net	\$55 month \$150 registration
Holonet 46 Shattuck Square Suite 11 Berkeley, CA 94704 Voice# (510)704-0160 fax# (510)704-8019 (internet) info@holonet.net	\$6 month \$2-4 hour \$50 registration	Neosoft, Inc 3408 Mangum Houston, TX 77092 Voice# (713)684-5969 Fax# (713)684-5922 (internet) info@neosoft.com	\$54.95 per month
		Neosoft, Inc 3408 Mangum Houston, TX 77092 Voice# (713)684-5969 Fax# (713)684-5922 (internet) info@neosoft.com	\$54.95 per month

INTERNET UUCP Host List

NJCC
P.O. Box 6909
Lawrence, NJ 08648
Voice# (609) 896-2799
Fax# (609) 896-2994
UNIX Dialups: (609) 896-3191
BBS: (609) 895-0398
(internet) info@pluto.njcc.com

\$49.95 1 time setup
\$19.95 monthly charge

PANIX
Voice# (212)787-6160
(internet) info@panix.com

\$2 hour
\$10 month for a user
account

Pioneer Global
1770 Massachusetts Avenue #273
Cambridge, MA 02140
Voice# (617)375-0200

\$24.95 month
No installation

RAIN
Box 2683
Santa Barbara, CA 93120
Voice# (805)899-8610
fax# (805)568-2299
Data# (805)899-8600
(internet) rain@rain.org

\$50 month
\$200 registration

The Dallas Infomart
1950 Stemmens Freeway
Suite 5001
Dallas, TX 75207
Voice# (214)746-4710
Fax# (214)746-4856
(internet) info@onramp.net

\$79 month
\$75 Registration

The Well
27 Gate 5 Road
Sausalito, CA 94965
Voice# (415)332-4335
Fax# (415)332-1669
(internet) info@well.sf.ca.us

\$35 month
\$1 hour
\$50 registration

UUNET Technologies
3110 fairview park drive
falls Church, VA 22042
Voice# (800)488-6384
fax# (703)204-8001
(internet) info@uunet.uu.net

\$36 month
\$2.60-5.60 hour

VoiceNet/DSC
17 Richard Road
Ivyland, PA 18974
Voice# (215)674-9290
Voice# (800)521-2733
fax# (215)674-9662
(internet) info@voicenet.com

Variety of services
\$35-500 setup
\$5-150 monthly fees

XNet
PO Box 1511
Lisle, IL 60532
Voice# (708)983-6064
BBS# (708)983-6435
(internet) info@xnet.com

\$1 hour
\$5 month minimum

ZONE 1 Network Exchange
Robert Forsythe
5800 Arlington Ave
Riverdale, NY 10471
Voice# (718) 549-8078
Fax# (718) 884-7998
(internet) info@zone.net

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\$1-2 hour
\$40-1290 month

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1873 Hidden Oaks Drive
Memphis, TN 38138
Voice# (901) 757-7835
Fax# (901) 757-5875
(internet) net.info@magicbox.net

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- Online and Offline database updating.
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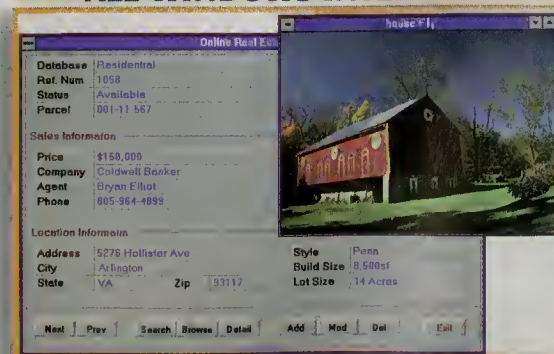
DC Genesys is 100% dBase III+, dBase IV and FoxPro2 compatible. It is also completely relational with support for seamless relational capabilities between fields in different tables.



• DC Genesys as seen through DC Term for Windows

Images transfer in 10-15 seconds.

ALL WINDOWS INTERFACE



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A True Windows Client/Server BBS

A Better Way to Communicate

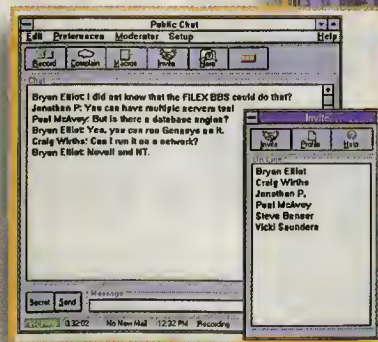
FILEX BBS™ is the first fully client/server, all Windows™, multi-user BBS. Using FILEX technology, Durand Communications Network, Inc. (DCN) has created one of the most powerful BBS platforms on the market. The FILEX BBS is a collection of easy-to-use modules which include: E-Mail, Messaging, File Library, Chat, Accounting, and Security. Now, businesses, entrepreneurs and government agencies can easily develop their own online informational services. Choose either FILEX v2.0 single line, Pro-4 or Pro-8 (simultaneous modem lines) along with FILEX BBS, and you'll have a complete, comprehensive and cost effective interactive BBS.

BBS FEATURES

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DC INTERFACE BUILDER

Create beautiful menus with built-in compressed images, buttons with graphics and more. The DC Interface Builder allows you to customize your BBS.

**MULTINODE CHAT**

Using an intuitive interface, create multiple chat forums of moderated topics or request a private conference with another user online.

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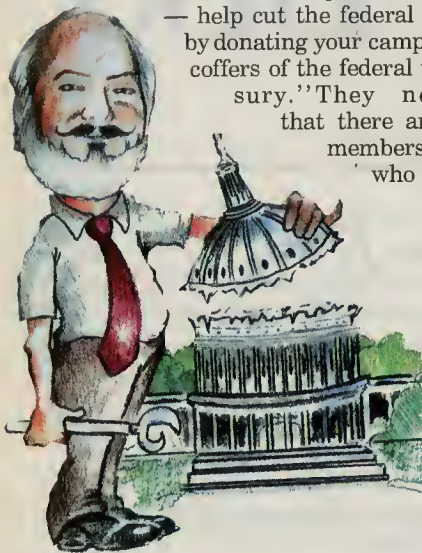


ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

TIDBITS FROM AROUND THE NATION

by Jim Warren

In late June, the net-literate Congressional Accountability Project (CAP, founded by Ralph Nader) and United We Stand America (UWSA, founded by Ross Perot) called for, "our retiring public servants to do a public service — help cut the federal debt by donating your campaign coffers of the federal treasury." They noted that there are 39 members who are



not seeking re-election nor election to some other office, and Federal Elections Commission (FEC) records indicate, as of March 31st, that those 39 members have a total of **\$5,689,633** of unused campaign funds — including **\$3,574,160** held by 9 retiring Senators.

CAP and UWSA said that, according to the House Ethics Manual, federal law "allows campaign funds [of retiring members of Congress] to be donated to charities... to be contributed to any national, state, or local committee of a political party, or to be used for 'any other lawful purpose.'" In addition, "excess campaign funds may be invested for use in a future political campaign."

The known Senate retirees are: David Boren (D-OK), John Danforth (R-MO), Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), David Durenberger (R-MN), Harlan Mathews (D-TN), Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH), George Mitchell (D-ME), Donald Riegle (D-MI) and Malcolm Wallop (R-WY).

House retirees not seeking other office include: Mike Andrews (D-TX-25), Douglas Applegate (D-OH-18), Jim Bacchus (D-FL-15), Lucien Blackwell (D-PA-2), Butler Derrick (D-SC-3), Don Edwards (D-CA-16), Hamilton Fish (R-NY-19), William Ford (D-MI-13), Fred

Grandy (R-IA-5), William Hughes (D-NJ-2), Earl Hutto (D-FL-1), Mike Kopetski (D-OR-5), Tom Lewis (R-FL-16), Marilyn Lloyd (D-TN-3), Romano Mazzoli (D-KY-3), Al McCandless (R-CA-44), Alex McMillan (R-NC-9), Robert Michel (R-IL-18), Austin Murphy (D-PA-20), Stephen Neal (D-NC-5), Timothy Penny (D-MN-1), J.J. Pickle (D-TX-10), J. Roy Rowland (D-GA-8), George Sangmeister (D-IL-11), Philip Sharp (D-IN-2), Bob Smith (R-OR-2), Al Swift (D-WA-2), Tim Valentine (D-NC-2) and Craig Washington (D-TX-18).

The public debt that these congressional members voted for is about \$4.6-trillion.

The congressional switchboard is **202-224-3121**.

Help flex the net's muscle: For further distribution online and on paper, get an electronic copy of the 4,700-byte announcement from CAP's Director, Gary Ruskin (gary@essential.org, or call him at **202-296-2787**). The UWSA contact for this adventure is Sharon Holman (**214-50-8803**).

NET-PRESSURE FOR FED ACCESS

On June 30th, CAP's Gary Ruskin (above) proposed putting together a coalition of groups to support free online access to legislative, legal and administrative information — notably including, but not limited to:

- Federal legislation
- Congressional Research Service reports
- Voting records of members of Congress
- Congressional Record
- Federal Register
- Congressional hearing records and reports
- General Accounting Office (GAO) reports
- Federal agency news releases and reports
- Federal Election Commission (FEC) campaign disclosure filings
- U.S. Code, Code of Federal Regulations
- federal and state court decisions all of which are already computerized in one or multiple forms.

As of our early-July press deadline for this September issue, Jamie Love's Taxpayer Assets Project (TAP, love@essential.org) — that led the successful battle to open the Securities Exchange Commission's computerized public records to free Internet access — has joined the prenatal effort. [TAP is another of Ralph Nader's projects. It has been instrumental in efforts to protect the Department of Justice's computerized JURIS files from being erased and available only via platinum-priced private companies, at the end of a much-too-cozy Reagan-era privatization contract.]

The California League of Women Voters legislative director has expressed interest (Fran Packard, fpack@crl.com or 73162.3025@compuserve.com). And I have said I was interested in helping — especially to help create a broad net-based, computer-aided grass-roots structure to precipitate the public pressure necessary to move any such effort through Congress and the White Haus ([GovAccess, jwarren@well.com](mailto:GovAccess,jwarren@well.com)).

Timely, practical access (economical for "mere" citizens) to government information is one of two absolute prerequisites for any effective oversight or action by the body politic. (The other prereq is timely, practical mass communications — and our connected thinkertoys already provide that to us.)

To watch the battle — or join the micro-computer Minute[wo]men who are storming the Beltway bastions — send your e-mail address to Gary or to me.

In the meantime, Gary points out that you can call or fax at-least the following people, urging them to require the U.S. General Printing Office to provide free online access to this already-computerized basic government information — specifically listing at-least the above items:

- Michael DiMario, Public Printer, **202-512-2034**; fax/**202-512-1347**.
- Rep. Charlie Rose (D-NC, Chairman, House Administration Committee; Vice Chairman, Joint Committee on Printing), **202-225-0345**; fax/ **202-225-0345**.
- Senator Wendell Ford (D-KY, Chairman, Joint Committee on Printing), **202-224-4343**; fax/**202-224-0046**.
- Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA, House Minority Whip, sits on the Joint Committee on Printing and the

House Administration Committee),
202-225-4501; fax 202-225-4656.

- Rep. Bill Thomas (R-CA, Ranking Minority Member of the House Administration Committee), 202-225-2915; fax 202-225-2904.
- And your own members of Congress (see congressional switchboard, previously listed).

CALIFORNIA GOVT ONLINE

In early summer, Chris May, a gloriously-workaholic small-business management student at San Francisco State University, published the latest edition of his list of California Electronic Government Information. You can retrieve it by anonymous ftp from <ftp.cpsr.org> as [/cpsr/states/california/940615.cal_gov_info_FAQ](ftp://ftp.cpsr.org/cpsr/states/california/940615.cal_gov_info_FAQ) or browse http://www.cpsr.org/cpsr/states/california/cal_gov_info_FAQ.html with a WWW or Mosaic client or Lynx.

Chris lists more than thirty online sources of local and state California government and government-related information, ranging from cities such as Cupertino, Oakland, Antioch and others, to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), to services such as those concerning employment, emergency services, water quality, education, energy and the judicial council, to listings of political candidates and some [few] candidates' e-mail addresses.

As much as possible for each resource, he includes its title, source, net-path, descriptive abstract, public-feedback path, human contact(s), and specific instructions for initiating online access.

This list was compiled for the CEGI Project with the support of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, the California Library Association Government Publications Round Table, and help from subscribers to the calgovinfo list. (To subscribe to calgovinfo, send e-mail to: listserv@cpsr.org with Subject: none and your message being: subscribe calgovinfo <your name>.)

Sz Chris: The point of collecting this information is to:

- Make the availability of these resources more widely known.
- Start people thinking about what they want to see online, and how they want to retrieve it.
- Create a demand for a larger list.
- Applaud those state and local agencies and organizations who are providing electronic information services, and prod the rest.

"Ohhhh, it's so BIG!!"



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Chris (cmays@sfsu.edu) will expand the list as he hears about additional sources and checks them out. If you know about any, please send as much of the following as possible to him:

- Name of the agency/organization, and where it fits into the structure of government. For example, if you have a gopher address for the Office of Information Technology, mention that the OIT is part of the Department of Finance, which is a cabinet-level department. It would be helpful to know the formal, informal and acronymic names.
- Name of the [hopefully] friendly, knowledgeable manager in charge of the resource, and how to contact him or her. Also mention if the agency permits the public to give it feedback regarding the services they offer.
- Net-path to the resource, including what kinds of access it provides (ftp, gopher, WWW?), public login and password, commands that must be issued, directories of interest, phone number, speed and settings for BBSs, etc. For instance: California Legislative Information, ftpmail@leginfo

public.ca.gov; Subject: none; message:
:connect leginfo public.ca.gov <carriage
return> help <cr> quit <cr>.

- Nature of the information, perhaps in abstract form to help in drafting its description.
- Dates of coverage. Note if the information source is an archive of past postings, documents or records, or just carries new information.

FUTURE CALIFORNIA ACCESS

There are several bills clawing their way through the California Legislature that could **greatly** enhance modern [online] access to already-computerized local and/or state public information, if they pass without being too-badly butchered in the legislative slaughterhouse.

And if they become California law, it is likely that numerous other states will model legislation after them — for better (if they survive, intact) or worse (if they get too-badly mangled by insiders' hacking).

These include AB 2523 by Assembly Member Debra Bowen (Democrat, Torrance-Marina del Rey, mama of last year's precedent-setting AB 1624 that opened legislative records to fee-free public online access, contact staffer Mary Winkley, 916-445-8528, winkleme@ais0.assembly.ca.gov), AB 2451 authored by Assembly Member Tom Bates (Democrat, Oakland-Richmond area, contact staffer Rachel Richman, 916-445-7554, richmarb@ais0.assembly.ca.gov) and major public-records reform legislation, SB 95 by Quentin Kopp (Independent, San Francisco, 916-445-0503; strongly supported by the state's Newspaper Publishers Association and First Amendment Coalition).

SB 758 would have mandated the filing of, and online public access to, campaign-finance disclosures. But bill-author Senator Tom Hayden (Democrat, Hollywood area, contact staffer Darryl Young, 916-445-1353, darryl.young@sen.ca.gov) was busy playing gubernatorial gadfly last spring and didn't take the time needed to work the bill that he Though Darryl rarely returns my phone requests for information, I hear by other sources that they may get a rule waiver and try to get the bill through next August. Might happen.

If not, we will have to find a more-responsible author next year — who will attend to the legislative labors that we are paying them to do — to again push for **useful** public access to these "public" political disclosures that are crucial if we are to have **informed** voters. With term-limits about to amputate more than 80% of the Legislature, maybe it will be easier to get such public-interest legislation passed in a year or two.

Warren [345 Swett Rd., Woodside CA 94062; (415)851-7075; jwarren@well.com] received the James Madison Freedom-of-Information Award this year from the Society of Professional Journalists - Northern California for helping to make government information freely available online, and is now pushing for similar access to campaign-finance disclosures. He received the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Award the first year it was given; founded **InfoWorld** and the Computers, Freedom & Privacy conferences; was founding host of PBS' television's "Computer Chronicles," and founding Editor of **Dr. Dobb's Journal**, among other things.

He began working as a programmer in 1968 after ten years teaching mathematics, holds three graduate degrees in computing and mathematics and has taught computing at various universities including Stanford.-Editor

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Multiple command shells	Yes	No	No	No	No
Intelligent DigiBoard	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Int14h device support	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Standard serial ports	Up to 10	No	Up to 4	Up to 2	Up to 2
Caller ID security	Yes	No	Extra	Extra	No
Nested security logic	Yes	No	No	No	No
Multichannel chat	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private user chat	Yes	No	Extra	Yes	Yes
Offline reader support	Yes	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra
QWK networking	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
FidoNet import/export	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PostLink (RIME) support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra	No
Includes RIPscrip menus	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Novell/DOS LAN support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Enhanced CD-ROM support	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Incoming FAX support	Yes	No	No	No	No
Chat between doors	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Bidirectional file transfers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
DOS door support	11 types	2 types	2 types	No	No
FILE_ID.DIZ support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	No
Offline NetMail	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
Offline/Remote file requests	Yes	No	No	No	No
Real-time configuration	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/94, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Third party utilities may be required for some message network technologies.
* for 8 nodes Wildcat!IM requires a 250 node license, PCBoard/M requires a 10 node license, TBBS requires a 16 node license.

If you haven't checked out Synchronet yet, crank up your modem and download a demo. There isn't a faster, more feature rich BBS available anywhere from anyone. Synchronet combines the robust interactive nature of a multiuser BBS with the speed, power and flexibility of a multinode system.

It was innovative out-of-the-box features such as intelligent variable timeslicing, ARSTM security, RIPscrip, enhanced CD-ROM, and easy to use fully integrated message network support that made Synchronet a multinode powerhouse. And now, with version 2.0, custom programmability, lightning fast high volume messaging, and much more makes Synchronet *the* sysop's choice for BBSing in the 90's.



Synchronet **BBS** version 2
Multinode Bulletin Board System Software

EDUCATION LINK

by Bill Gram-Reefer

DIGITAL HELP FOR ANALOG USERS

Like the great land-rush of the 19th century, many public and private institutions are facing an ever-increasing struggle for Internet purchase, marking off boundaries and access points as best they can. But with the growing popularity of the super-duper information highway, a bevy of questions still confront schools and libraries, particularly the question of how best to use computers and telecommunications to provide user support for all of their constituencies.

The most serious question may be how to use digital technology, whether LAN or WAN-based to provide new and ongoing support to the great unwashed analog masses. The technologically impaired public, including debt-ridden wage-slave household heads, depression-starved can stackers, and blue-haired coupon clippers, to name just a few of the many significant demographic groups within our midst, still rely on public libraries, schools, and other public institutions as important reference points within their everyday lives. But their's is an analog world, unfamiliar with bits and bytes, terminal emulation, and transfer protocols. Yet they too deserve and expect fair and equal treatment in areas of improved service and support, despite the general trend toward a digital tomorrow land where the great Catch-22 is, of course, the fact that a great majority of these users don't even know how to log on to get to the online help files.

But all of these folks know how to use a telephone.

And here we find an interesting nexus between the digital and analog generations as libraries and schools look to voice-assisted telephone hotlines and help-desks to aid users in accessing information on how to access, use, or otherwise "download" analog service, or find out what kind of mystery meat Johnny will be served tomorrow in the

school cafeteria. The great thing is, that users, like parents, don't have to know it's computer technology.

One interesting product along this line is High Tide Software's HomeWork Hotline, a complete voice mail package for the K-12 education market that includes: a specially-configured version of HighTide's voice-messaging program, the company's Homework Hotline Template designed for school applications, and telephone interface hardware (i.e.: modem). According to teachers using it, High Tide's HomeWork Hotline provides a powerful and easy-to-use, Mac-based telephony solution for schools that actually enables teachers, parents, and students to communicate more effectively.

Using HomeWork Hotline's specialized template, school administrators leave messages concerning school policies, class schedules, location/directions, info about school closures due to weather, fund-raisers, sports events, or PTA meetings, and school-lunch menus. Plus, teachers use HomeWork Hotline to leave messages concerning homework assignments and special projects, and to even provide hints and tips to parents for assistance on those tough trigonometry assignments.

Parents, without having to interrupt teachers, use HomeWork Hotline to access messages from the school and week-long assignments from specific teachers 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-per-week. Parents also leave voice messages concerning a child's absence during illness, or in an emergency, for example. And parents can contact the school from home, office, or from on the road.

HomeWork Hotline's built-in template enables school personnel to completely customize their voice mail system with an unlimited mailbox tree with individual passwords and public messages for each mailbox. School personnel listen to or change outgoing messages either directly from the Macintosh or by accessing the system remotely using a Touch-tone phone. A simple on-screen Message Manager logs all calls, and allows users to play or delete messages, as well as sort, label, archive, categorize, and save them for later use. Parents and students are aided by a built-in Teacher Directory that guides callers to select the appropriate mailboxes. HomeWork Hotline can also be

easily configured to support bi- or multi-lingual messages and access.

Teachers who use the system are impressed with the improvement in homework and parent participation. "HomeWork Hotline has provided the solution we've been looking for," explained Harold Holcomb, an elementary school teacher in Michigan. "We have 250 students and it's amazing the number of calls we're getting. HomeWork Hotline has definitely improved communication between the parents and teachers; the parents feel it makes the students more responsible, and the children are using it in very positive ways." Ruthann Dostal, a mother of a fifth grader noted, "HomeWork Hotline is very useful. I call the Hotline to find out what homework my son has to do, and make sure he's got everything he needs to turn it in on time."

At \$499, the Homework Hotline from High Tide provides all of the features that are found in systems or services that cost thousands more. In fact Holcomb noted that the alternative to the Homework Hotline was an \$11,000 district-wide system proposed by the local RBOC. They could not afford such a steep price, so he was glad to find a \$499 solution.

High Tides's HomeWork Hotline runs in the background on all Macintosh computers using System 7 and later, and supports AppleOs Communications Toolbox, and the use of non-Touch-tone phones. All of HomeWork Hotline's verbal prompts and messages are stored using advanced compression techniques that provide professional, clear, high-clarity audio on all types of telephones. High Tide Software is located at 2112-A McKinley Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703 and can be reached at (510) 704-9927.

MAIL BAG

"Bill: Thanks for featuring "SREB Dat-Ex" in July's "Education Link." Hopefully it will encourage others to employ emerging technologies to support educational improvement.

"Begun as a private service to support our annual higher education statistical survey we have expanded our access and range of files to serve more of our constituencies. While usage is still well within our one line capacity, we are set up on a multi-node base and will "go with the flow." And, with the emerging Internet linkages I believe we will be

"sitting pretty" a year from now with a bank of modems on one side of the PC and the Internet wire on the other side all accessing the same customized interface.

"I know this is where we need to be to perform well in the years to come and I'm glad you took notice of us. Joe Marks"

"Bill: I enjoy your column in Boardwatch, to which I have subscribed for three years. A few months ago there was mention in the magazine of a school system in the northeast which set up a BBS at great expense. I'd like to share my experiences as an ed sysop with you.

"In July 1990, a colleague and I built a BBS for our school around a donated 30-MB IBM AT. A sysop gave us WWIV software and helped us configure the board. The school installed and paid for a voice grade phone line. The system is used exclusively as a communications tool for teachers.

"In these 3.5 years we have logged 13,000 calls; 65 calls a day is our present average. Over 80 teachers and administrators have accounts; about half use the BBS daily. The primary use is for e-mail and public notices; file transfers are relatively minor. The school has two campuses, five miles apart in different towns; teachers live in three states. The BBS is an effective way to keep people in touch over weekends and vacations in a non-invasive way.

"The success of the BBS is due to its narrow focus in meeting a need and to the availability of hardware. Every academic departmental office has a Mac and a modem; 60% of the faculty are similarly equipped at home. It's relatively easy for teachers to dial up during the day and from home.

"Our plans call for dropping the AT and WWIV and setting up a new system with SoftArc's FirstClass on a donated Mac IIcx. At that time we will install a second phone line. FirstClass client software will allow users with PCs and VT100s to use the board; we expect to have Internet mailer software. The new board should attract more users and increase communication within this community of teachers. William W. Schweikert, Northfield Mount Hermon School, P. O. Box 2, Mount Hermon, MA 01354; bschweik@k12.uconn.edu."

BGR Responds: *On this matter please be aware that Apple Computer now offers bundled hardware and SoftArc's FirstClass at special K-12 rates. The bundle will be sold in two parts: a server and a user license. A 25-MHz AWS 60 server with FirstClass server software is priced at \$2,599. A 33-MHz AWS 80 with FirstClass is \$6,389 (prices include setup and connection to a school's existing network). Apple is offering a choice of two FirstClass user license packages with the bundle: a 100 regular user pack \$895 (regular retail is \$2,495), or 250 regular user pack at \$1,495 (normally \$5,995). Apple plans to offer customers the option of adding one of SoftArc's existing FirstClass Internet Gateways for private mail, mail lists and Usenet news groups. Contact SoftArc at (416) 609-2250.*

On the success of a recent conference for teachers, Jack Crawford, founder of K12Freeway writes: "It went very nicely. We had well over 200 attendees including several from out-of-state. While nearly all were educators, they came from all levels of background experience in using telecom in the schools. Next time we do this, (and that seems reasonably certain), we'll consider doing on it on a much larger scale. Interestingly, the two most

popular sessions were on FIDOnet and K12Net with attendance nearly double that of the ones on the Internet.

"My sense is that educators are starting to wake up to the fact that there are a lot of "toll booths" on the Information Highway and they are looking for cheaper alternativesFIDO/K12Net may not have all of the power, glitz and glitter of the real-time networks, but teachers are beginning to realize that the bread 'n butter of telecom is electronic mail and conferencing. FIDO/K12Net does that pretty well at a price that is so low no school in the U.S. or Canada can afford NOT to take advantage of it..." For more information relating to plans for the next conference and to contact Jack Crawford call (voice) (315) 331-1584 afternoons only (EST) or e-mail to jack@rochgte.fidonet.org; FIDOnet 1:260/620.

Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, specializing in connectivity and communications. E-mail Bill at: reefer@netcom.com

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by Bill Gram-Reefer

FAVORITE MAC BBS SYSTEMS

I protest. Even a casual reader of this publication will notice this issue's list of most-popular BBS systems across the country, a result of a wide-open balloting process not completely immune to modern, organized stuffing techniques. While it is true that there are many wonderful PC-based BBSs in this world, I fail to understand why no more than 2 or 3 Mac-based BBSs are able to crack the top 100 list published by this magazine. Is it because Mac BBSs stink, that no one cares about them, or that they are totally, raunchy? Or is it the sheer mass of don't-know-any-better PC-based listings that crowd out any recognition. I think it the latter, and so offer this short salute to the best and the brightest of Mac-based BBSs compiled by myself from past visits to BBSs I have reviewed, with assistance from a select panel of industry advisers representing users and sysops from each major Mac BBS publisher. The list is proffered in alphabetical order so as not to offend. If your BBS isn't listed here, then write and tell us why it should be.

MACINTOSH BBS FAQ

Coordinated by James Barry, this is a collection of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) intended to help reduce the number of "often asked questions" that make the rounds concerning setting up, maintaining and accessing BBSs using a Macintosh. This FAQ is now posted

MAC BBS SYSTEMS

BBS NAME	LOCATION	NUMBER
Access Sarasota	Sarasota, FL	813-952-0445
AJN	New York, NY	212-582-8137
Appleseeds BBS	Raleigh, NC	919-481-4896
BCS MUG BBS	Boston, MA	617-864-3375
BMUG Boston	Boston, MA	617-721-5840
Box4	Switzerland	41-1-776-8001
CCS-BBS	Chicago, IL	312-702-2146
Cutting Edge BBS	Portland, ME	207-879-8740
CyberDen	Leesburg, VA	703-338-6025
DESIGNLINK	Walnut Creek, CA	510-933-9676
Digital Nation	Washington, DC	703-642-0453
DiskExpress Italy	Florence, Italy	+39-55-670-666
Ecclesia	El Cerrito, CA	510-526-6584
FreeThinkers BBS	Miami Springs, FL	305-863-0830
GDN Network	Washington, DC	202-965-1418
Great Mac Attack	Dover, OH	216-878-6221
Heart of the North	Norway, MI	906-774-3260
InfoPort	Denver, CO	303-429-0291
LiveWire	San Jose, CA	408-298-8646
MacExchange BBS	Sweden	+46-031-948-290
Macintosh Online	Atlanta, GA	404-988-9904
MacNexus BBS	Sacramento, CA	916-455-3726
MacTel HQ	London, England	+44-81-543-5417
MacTel Metro	London, England	+44-81-543-8017
Magic	Toronto, Ontario	416-288-1767
Neoteric	Troy, MI	810-644-6977
NovaLine	East Lansing, MI	517-351-2546
OK Press BBS	Oklahoma City, OK	405-524-1209
Planet BMUG	Berkeley, CA	510-849-2684
Popular Emotion	Philadelphia, PA	215-386-9333
Shark Byte	San Jose, CA	408-446-2994
Spider	Delft, Holland	+31-15-158300
Studio X	Santa Fe, NM	505-820-6880
Columbus PBX	Columbus, OH	812-841-1021

periodically (about once a month) to the Usenet groups **comp.bbs**, **alt.bbs**, **alt.bbs.allsysop**, and **comp.sys.mac.comm**.

The Table of Contents includes: Chapter [3.1]: Is it possible to run a bulletin board system on a Macintosh? CHAPTER [3.2]: What hardware is needed to run a bulletin board system on a Macintosh? 3.2.1 A minimum machine; 3.2.2 Hard drives and accessing information 3.2.3 Accelerating your Macintosh BBS; 3.2.4 CD ROMS and your BBS; 3.2.5- Networking Macs to create larger BBSs.

CHAPTER [3.3]: Setting up the phone lines with a Macintosh; 3.3.1 Serial ports on a Mac; 3.3.2 Multi-port cards for expanding the number of lines 3.3.3 SCSI interfaces for expansion CHAPTER [3.4]: Modems and a Macintosh BBS; 3.4.1 Modems; 3.4.2 Carrier detect and the Macintosh; 3.4.3 Hardware handshaking and the Macintosh 3.4.4 High speed modems; 3.4.5 Sysop pricing on modems.

CHAPTER [3.5]: Commercial BBS software for the Macintosh; 3.5.1 NovaLink Pro; 3.5.2 FirstClass; 3.5.3 TeleFinder; 3.5.4 Commercial software comparison chart CHAPTER [3.6]: Shareware Macintosh BBS software; 3.6.1 Hermes II; 3.6.2 Hi BBS; 3.6.3 Public Access; 3.6.4 Mansion; 3.6.5 Second Sight; 3.6.6 Shareware software comparison chart.

CHAPTER [3.7]: The Macintosh and Public Networks ; 3.7.1 NovaWorld; 3.7.2 OneNet; 3.7.3 FidoNet; 3.7.4 Internet CHAPTER [3.8] Compression of Files to save disk space; 3.8.1 Why compress files?; 3.8.2 Stuffit format; 3.8.3 Compact Pro Format; 3.8.4 Binhex; 3.8.5 Zip format CHAPTER [3.9] Other useful sources of information for BBS operators; 3.9.1 **comp.sys.mac.com** FAQ; 3.9.2 good BBS books.

Kudos to the editor! Please send corrections, additions or deletions to the Macintosh section coordinator - **jmbarry@infoport.com** Internet.

WHAT COLOR IS YOUR BBS?

According to the author of *Creating Successful Bulletin Board Systems* (Creating), Alan D. Bryant, there are an estimated **150,000** BBS operators representing a growth industry that expands 10 to 20 percent annually. But like restaurants that come and go each day, the spiraling BBS growth curve, pushed by entrepreneurs and hobbyists alike, comes complete with its own litany of false starts, blue-sky business plans, technical and legal problems, and poor capitalization. Noting these potential pitfalls, Bryant, director of marketing for eSoft Inc., has cobbled together a usable primer for the wanna-be system operator (sysop), that is worthy reading, too, for the experienced BBS operator.

Whether you're seeking fun or profit or both in your BBS, the chapters are designed to take the reader from the design, theme, and setup stage of creating a BBS, through to the finer points of technical requirements, expansion, billing methods, and day-to-day operation. Something of a "What Color is Your Parachute?" how-to book, the many comparative tables throughout help the reader balance various options the author describes. The worksheets at the end of each chapter further help the reader analyze and organize. Insider tips speckled about provide sage warnings and technical explanations. A well-stocked appendix, glossary, and index round out this primer.

Creating comes complete with a, two-line version of eSoft's popular TBBS software for IBM-PC and compatibles on a disk pasted on the inside-back cover. You can register the product to receive the manuals for \$75 and full product support. The software itself is

identical to their \$295 retail version. Not surprisingly, the DOS/TBBS background of the author limits the book's usefulness in areas of support for Macintosh-based systems that could be better served by scouring Bernard Aboba's *The Online User's Encyclopedia*, also published by Addison Wesley. But beyond these technical concerns, *Creating* is loaded with enough platform-independent advice that it can be recommended to any reader. *Creating Successful Bulletin Board Systems* Alan D. Bryant, Addison Wesley, 393 pages, **\$39.95**.

MAIL BAG

Dear Bill,

"My name is Elmer (Demeter) and I'm student at the Politechnical university of Bucharest. I just read your article [in] Boardwatch Magazine. To be very short, I think it's absolutely fantastic what you are doing there. Over the last 18 years (I'm 24 now), I grew up with computers, from the CPM to workstations, I worked with all of them. Now I'm fascinated by communications.

"At my university, we have about 100 stations joined together by glass fiber wires (I hope that's their name). All of these are, of course, connected to Internet, so that we have access to all who are joined together with this fantastic network. I think this network (INTERNET) is already bigger than anybody can imagine.

"If you have the address of students, or not students, who are interested to communicate in the field of communications (sounds funny, isn't it?), please e-mail me their addresses and you will have the biggest fan of you here in Rumania. All the best, Elmer D. office@elma.eunet.ro; mc@faraday.elth.pub.ro; pub@alpha.amotion.pub.ro."

BGR responds: Elmer, since you're logged in, perhaps one place to check on is comp.sys.mac.comm, usually the coolest Mac-based newsgroup covering communications. Your school should have it if they carry newsgroups.

After the June issue's review of FreeThinkers, Zardoz, the sysop writes:

"Dear Bill, Sorry I sent this via slow-mail, but I haven't gotten the hang of Internet or its addressing methods. I just wanted to thank you for your insightful article, "A Modern Project," about my FreeThinkers BBS in the June issue of Boardwatch. It felt good to realize that someone got the message about the intent of tolerance on this board. In times of increasing religious

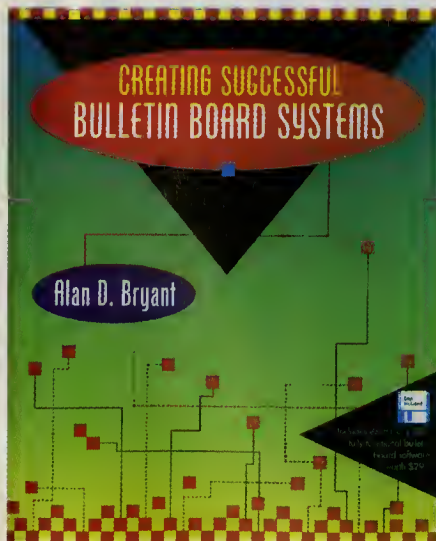
and pseudoscientific dogma, I expected only hostility from adherents to belief-systems.

"You wrote: 'Yet a few, anticipating the post-modern critique—like deSade in his Philosophy in the Bedroom—saw the meaninglessness of Bacon's pit and just said 'darn it,' and did so quite often.'"

"Having read most of deSade's existing books, I got a kick out of 'darn it.' I suspect people who have not read deSade won't get the humor. The reason I started a BBS came from my censorship on a GENie E-Prime topic when I used colloquial slang (or in their terms, 'obscenity') to explain that words do not equal the things they represent any more than maps equal territories (as Alfred Korzybski used to say). Someone once said that freedom of speech comes only to people who own a printing press. So I started a BBS where anyone could express whatever they wished, in any way they wished. I suspect I'll soon learn about the limits to expressive tolerance. :) No doubt your article will attract a few free thinkers, and I appreciate that. Regards, Jim Walker, Zardoz, Sysop." FreeThinkers BBS is at **305-863-0830**.

BGR responds: I was just trying to show, in these days of "culture war," bigotry and intolerance can cut more than one way. As for the darn-it passage. I actually did write the F-word in the original copy I submitted to my editor. As a way to indicate the nascent nihilism of our age, I thought this usage historically accurate and appropriate, since deSade was in fact a prodigious coitalist, a copulator well known as a humping, noodling, rutting, hoser; a jammy-jam promiscuous intercourser, oft-horizontal between the wampa-wampa sheets, but I was censored. As for the distinction between words and their representations, the same goes for ideas, which Kant (not a dirty word except to British Empiricists) clearly explained as the "ding und sich," long before Korzybski showed up. And as for BBSs that offer a sinecure for free expression, if Jack's June editorial is any indication of the direction of free-speech in this country, we better all head for the hills.

"Hi Bill, I am reading the June issue of Boardwatch and you have my home number listed in bold for the AMUG BBS (Arizona Macintosh Users Group). While we at AMUG love the press, my poor wife is less forgiving...heh heh. Could you please change your records to show the AMUG voice line at 602-553-8966, 553-8771 FAX. Our undying thanks!



"Also to address the dilemma that IBM BBS's have supporting Mac users, we are going to release a new product at ONE BBS CON. This CD-ROM will be BBS in a BOX but with all files Macbinary and in ISSO format. It will have 2 directories one that shows names in Mac format on a Mac and the IBM directory will show XXXXXXXX.XXX (8.3) names on an IBM. Cool JVC technology on directories.

"When a Mac dl's from the PC using this CD the process will automatically strip off the machinary header and leave the sitC=0 resource (description) intact along with the creator/type info. The Mac user will get the file in the same format as if they had downloaded it from a Mac system. We have to get the directories to work with the IBM formats as well. Our intention is to only provide this CD to IBM systems as most Mac users will still want the regular non-Machinary format for their personal use. As far as we can see this will be the first (successfully working) CD of this type available for Mac support on the IBM platform bbs.

"I hope this helps with some of your questions that come to you from Boardwatch. PC systems who want to be notified of the CD when it becomes available can send address info to: AMUG, 4131 N. 24th St. #A-120, Phoenix, AZ 85016 USA. (602) 553-8966. I hope Jack is paying you big bucks for all the work you put into your column. Its the reason I subscribe. Lets hope he doesn't start a gun running operation after reading his June column... :> Thanks," Michael Bean, AMUG, Home of BBS in a Box! President/Dishwasher; Arizona Macintosh Users Group 4131 North 24th Street #A120 Phoenix, Arizona 85016 USA; Telephone (602) 553-8966 Fax (602) 553-8771; bean@amug.org Internet.

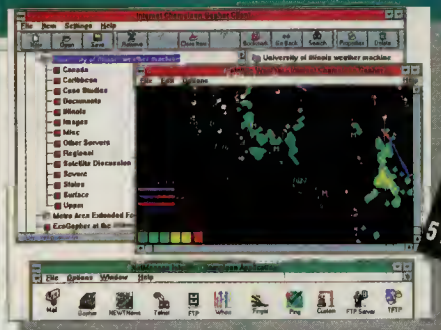
BGR Responds: Michael, you and the AMUG crew run a great group and BBS. Your BBS-in-a-Box is a great service, and this new edition for PC-based sysops will prove invaluable I'm sure. As for the princely sum which is my pecuniary compensation for my inestimable labor here, I will pass along your recommendation to the power that is for further consideration. Actually, I'm waiting for the day he gets subpoenaed to testify in front of some self-serving Congressional hearing. After all of the screaming and shouting, if such a performance doesn't land his rotunda in the slammer, it will at least better define the true sense of "fur flying."

Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of **WORLDVIEW**, specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. Email Bill at: reefer@netcom.com

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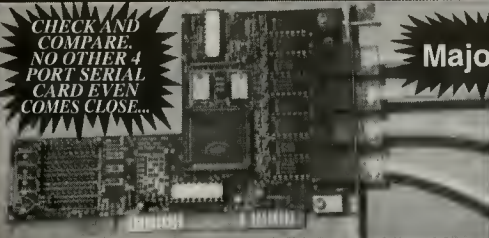
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16550 UARTS Standard	YES	No	No	No	No
IRQ's 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15	YES	No	No	No	No
IRQ's can be Shared, Separate or both.	YES	No	No	No	Yes
Maximum Data Rate (BPS)	460,800	57,600	57,600	57,600	57,600
Watchdog Circuit	YES	No	No	No	No
Includes 6 Foot cables	YES	No	No	No	No
Retail Price	\$295	\$409	\$339	\$495	\$350

	Gtek BBS550	Connect-Tech D-Flex-8	DigiBoard P/C8	Quatech MS100	Galactcomm Galactiboard	Sealevel COMM+8
Channels	8	8	8	8	8	8
16550 UARTS Standard	YES	No	No	No	Yes	No
Selectable IRQ's 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15	YES	No	No	No	No	No
IRQ's can be Shared, Separate or both.	YES	No	No	No	No	No
Full Modem Support	YES	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
COM1-4 Compatible	YES	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
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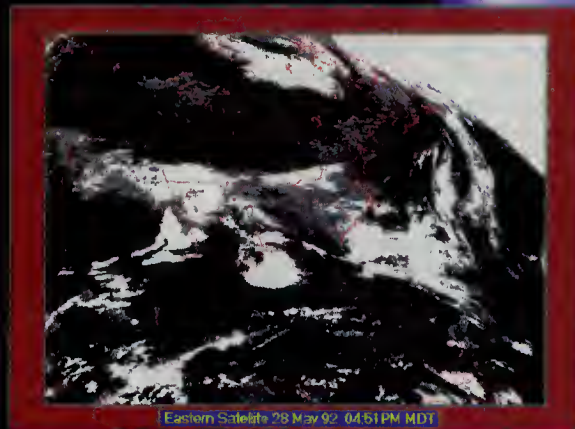
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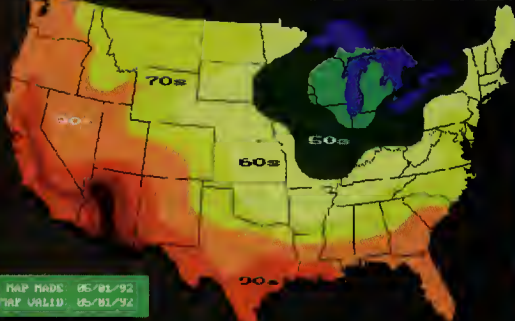
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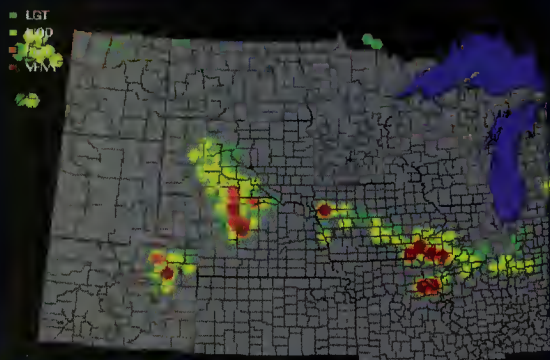


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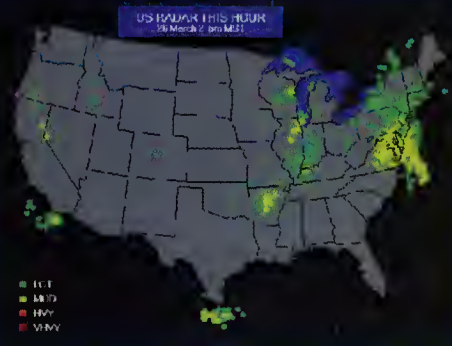
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WHAT KIND OF ONLINE COPYRIGHT SYSTEM DO YOU WANT? TELL THE NII TASK FORCE TODAY!

by Lance Rose

A few months ago, the White House asked its NII Task Force to come up with recommendations on how we should regulate the Information Superhighway. The first of its Working Groups is now back after a run around the online track, with a Green Paper on **"Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure."** It is 141 pages on property ownership online, addressed to the American public at large. It is also a request for comments from anyone who is interested, to be used in developing a final "White Paper" report that would stand as the actual recommendation to Congress.

Most of the Green Paper, roughly 95 pages, is a bang-up quick review of the current state of copyright law, slanted toward its application to new technologies. It's surprisingly comprehensive, covering a lot more of the whole of copyright law than might have seemed possible in such a short document. Anyone interested in learning how copyright law truly works can get a whirlwind education from this document. In particular, the Green Paper can be a great help to those confronting copyright issues for the first time due to their involvement in the net, who often feel that copyright law can't handle the new opportunities for copying and distribution digitized works. Before jumping to these conclusions, let the Green Paper show you how copyright has indeed adapted in decades past to successive emerging technologies like musical recordings, cable television, photocopying, and computer software. After the copyright discussion, there is a brief rundown of other property ownership regimes applicable to the online world, like patents, trade secrets and trademarks, and then finally the Working Group's recommendations for changing the Copyright Act.

The recommendations are the real pay dirt. The Working Group believes copyright law, with slight changes, is entirely well-suited to cover online transmission of copyrighted works:

We are once again faced with significant changes in technology, and views on the appropriate responses to these changes vary widely. There are some who argue that the Copyright Act is adequate without any modification. Others suggest that a complete overhaul of the intellectual property regime is in order. We believe that with no more than minor clarification and amendment, the Copyright Act . . . will provide the necessary protection of rights — and limitations on those rights to promote the progress of science and the useful arts.

This astonishing result is almost enough to restore one's faith in the self-restraint of government. When the Working Group on Intellectual Property was first announced several months back, there action among many copyright lawyers was, "if it ain't broke, why fix it?" Surely the will to regulate, carried like a genetic code by politicians and other Hill denizens, would create ruinous new rules and red tape to drive us all crazy. It also seemed likely the most powerful lobbying organizations — the entertainment, publishing and communications industries — would treat the prospect of new copyright laws as the latest chance to slant the playing field in their respective directions. The Working Group's proposal not to regulate is dumbfounding, with no clear theory to explain it in this corner, other than there must be some pretty smart people in that group. Perhaps it is the influence of Working Group Chair Bruce Lehman (who is also Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks), the same man who recently showed uncommonly good sense by guiding the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to get rid of that ridiculous, undeserved multimedia software patent paraded around by Compton's a few months ago.

So what are the "minor clarifications and amendments" the Working Group believes necessary for online copyright law? The most important ones are:

1. closing a potential loophole that might permit anyone to legally distribute copyrighted works on the net without permission from the copyright owner,
2. making sure copyright owners can prevent unauthorized electronic imports of their works from abroad,



3. outlawing traffic in devices designed to defeat copy-protection schemes, other than devices authorized by the law, and
4. outlawing the attachment of fraudulent copyright information to a digitized work.

The first couple of proposed changes are a bit technical, but let's take a crack at them anyway to get the flavor of what is going down right now.

Proposed change #1 would clarify how far copyright owners can control "distributions" of their works online. Today, copyright owners have exclusive legal control over first distribution of their works to the public. This right persists through the chain of distribution, to the point at which the copy is finally sold to a customer. After that, the "first sale" doctrine of copyright law kicks in, permitting buyers to legally redistribute their copies without further control by the copyright owner. For instance, after I buy a book from the book store, I can resell that book any way I please without asking the copyright owner for permission. This gives the copyright owner his full measure of profit on each copy of the work created, but keeps him from milking subsequent distribution of the same copies for further profits (a legal reality that greatly frustrates record companies troubled by the growing business in sales of used CDs, which compete with sales from their own back catalogs).

This scheme works a pretty good balance for businesses selling hard copy goods like books, records, videotapes and posters. It is automatically self-

limiting, since everyone who distributes their copy under the first sale into a secondary market no longer retains his or her own copy. When considering online distribution of the same items in digital form, though, the Working Group discovered a disturbing confusion in the law's use of the term "distribution" to define both the copyright owner's initial distribution right and the buyer's right to freely distribute his copy after the first sale. This confusion, if it crept into a court's interpretation of the Copyright Act, might allow each recipient of a copy to make mass distributions to others, and even keep his own copy in the process. If such an interpretation was to apply, copyright owners would effectively lose all control over distributing their works after the very first authorized distribution to the first few customers.

The Working Group's proposed solution is simply to make it clear in the statute that the first sale doctrine does not permit recipients of a work to "distribute" them further online without permission. This way, each distribution of a work to a customer or end user does not instantly make that customer capable of legally competing with the copyright owner by further distributing the same work to multiple recipients. The first sale doctrine would still exist, but it would be limited strictly to permitting owners of hard copies of the work to pass those particular copies on to others.

Proposed change #2 concerns the long-held right of copyright owners to prevent import of their own works from abroad into the U.S. This legal mechanism enables copyright owners to grant exclusive territories to different distributors, and to sell their works in different countries at different prices. It is typically exercised by having the offending articles stopped by U.S. Customs agents, with the prospect of eventual fines and other penalties against the attempted importers. The problem detected by the Working Group is that the current definition of "distribution" in the Copyright Act, which also defines the kinds of work under the owner's import control, is limited to transfers of physical "copies and phonorecords." A copyright owner today may be unable to use the current copyright law to prevent infringing imports of digitized works through the Internet or any other online system. Closing this loophole requires, once more, only a small change: adding electronic "transmission" to the kinds of

transfers covered by the copyright owner's distribution and importation rights.

A far-reaching corollary to this change is not mentioned in the Green Paper: the prospect of stationing U.S. Customs agents in cyberspace to catch infringing importations. Inevitably, we should expect to see a lot of customs agents online. The question is, will they content themselves to roving publicly accessible spaces, monitoring public transmissions at random, spiced up only by the occasional warrant-authorized bust or sting? Or will customs authorities, both here in the U.S. and abroad, try to force all international message traffic through bottlenecks designed to catch infringing importations? This scary prospect could slow development of online communications to a crawl, yet is a very real possibility unless someone takes deliberate steps to prevent it.

Back to online copyright. Proposed change #3 would make it a copyright infringement to do business in devices primarily designed to defeat copy protection measures used in software or other digital works, or to provide the service of removing copy protection. The stimulus for this change would

seem to be the recent *Sega v. Maphia* case (discussed in the July issue of *Boardwatch*). It involved a pirate BBS business that not only held a large store of software illegally downloaded from videogame cartridges, but also sold the specialized machines necessary for such downloading to their customers. The sale of those machines was held infringing because they "contributed" to the infringement of videogames they were used to copy; with the change proposed by the Working Group, mere use or sales of such machines would become a direct infringement. Why make the change if the court was able to declare the machine illegal under current copyright law? Because it puts one more weapon in the arsenal of net cops trying to limit the amount of infringement we will see occurring online. By outlawing the machines and hacking services apart from their use in any particular infringement, it discourages the development of side markets in devices and services defeating copy protection. If you limit availability of protection-breaking devices and services, you will limit the number of people dedicated or savvy enough to pry loose copyrighted works from the practical protection schemes of their owners. "Devices" is not limited to

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physical devices, either; software patches and hacks would be covered as well. The change also includes what we might call the "Betamax" exclusion: devices which have a substantial legal use, such as software that allows the creation of backup copies of software as authorized by copyright law, would still be legal.

Proposed change #4 would introduce a new concept to formal copyright law: "copyright management information." This is copyright-related information that could be "digitally linked" to digital works, such as the name of the owner of the work, terms of permitted use, and ISBN numbers. The Working Group proposes making it a crime to fraudulently link copyright management information to a work, or to alter or remove copyright management information legitimately linked to any work. Wrongdoers would be subject to fines of up to **\$2,500**.

Does the concept of "copyright management information" look familiar? It should; it encompasses much of what is found in typical shareware licenses. If this change is made to the copyright law, it would further legitimize shareware as an accepted means of licensing in the eyes of the copyright authorities, and it would add some teeth to shareware owners wronged by distributors who routinely strip the shareware license terms from their packages. Salutory as this is, it is not the main reason behind the proposed change. The Working Group is looking forward to a day, not far off, when all kinds of copyrighted works, such as full-length musical recordings and feature films, may be distributed online with terms of use attached. Making the falsification of copyright management information a separate crime discourages illicit markets in such works. It also streamlines the process of enabling recipients of works to know what they can and cannot do with them under the owner's copyright. Shareware benefits from this agenda, not because it is necessarily the intended beneficiary, but because it has turned out to be a forerunner of the way virtually all copyrighted works may be distributed in the future.

The main problem with this change is the meager remedy suggested by the Working Group, a **\$2,500** fine? That's a paltry slap on the wrist for most infringements, and it's not even collectible by the copyright owner, only by the government in a criminal action. Further, the FBI is unlikely to mobilize its forces to apprehend an infringer for

a crime worth no more than **\$2,500**. Clearly, this proposal is aimed solely at large scale infringement operations trafficking in a great number of infringing works. The law suddenly works, and the FBI is suddenly happy to assist, if the infringing operation turns out to be moving **400** different copyrighted works with falsified management information, adding up to **\$1,000,000** in potential penalties. Not bad on the criminal side, but here's a suggestion to the Working Group: give copyright owners the right to sue those who falsify copyright management information in civil court, for money damages. If copyright owners are injured by such activities, then copyright owners should be able to collect.

In all, the Green Paper is a nice start, but is that all there is? While we applaud the Working Group's restraint in not proposing a bushel of needless regulations, there are some other areas in which we will see strange new copyright problems arise. A little advance guidance in some of these areas could be helpful.

For instance, what about the continuing problems of getting permissions to use the copyrighted materials of others in multimedia works? There is a vague sense in the Green Paper that the Working Group is waiting to see how much can be accomplished by the online rights-clearance schemes being developed by a number of groups, which would let owners and developers come to terms much more easily than today. Unfortunately, there is a very real possibility that when the dust clears, content owners will still be demanding more for their tidbits than the multimedia market can bear, unnecessarily slowing down its development. We already see this in full swing in the hip-hop record business, which generally serves as a forerunner of problems for multimedia. How about some new limits on infringement liability for minor use of a preexisting work in subsequent multimedia works? It would be nice to see the legal regime change to where, if a little bit of someone's work is taken, and used as just a little bit of a multimedia work, it would not be legally treated as a major infringement.

What about copyright and online services? The *Playboy v. Frena* case a few months back raised the thought that sysops may be absolutely liable for copyright infringement on their systems, and the pending *Frank Music v. CompuServe* case could take that

approach further. Is this the time and place for a new rule, limiting sysops' liability where they did not actually know about the infringement?

Finally fair use, though discussed at length in the Green Paper, does not receive any proposals for change in the online environment. Might it make sense to hardwire into the Copyright Act some new uses that are presumptively fair. How about temporary, non-database postings of whole text articles up to 3,000 words in length and at least 48 hours old in nonprofit, small systems? Or porting big chunks of online discussion threads from one system to another, without being liable for infringement?

For anyone interested in the future of copyright, now is the perfect time to act. The Working Group is receiving comments from the public, both on paper and electronically, until September 7, 1994. Written comments should be submitted with an original and four copies to:

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Box 4
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Terri A. Southwick
Attorney-Advisor
Office of Legislative and International Affairs

If you prefer to provide your comments electronically, you should send them to nii-ip@uspto.gov. Don't be fooled by the relative ease of electronic access into sending a casual net-flame. If you want to be taken seriously, send a well-composed set of comments and suggestions, whatever medium you choose.

Before commenting, try to get your hands on the Green Paper and read it through. This time, the White House made it real easy by putting the entire document on a gopher server, reachable by gopher or telnet at litf.doc.gov (if by telnet, log in as "gopher"), and by direct dial at 202-501-1920. It is kept under "*Speeches, Testimony and Documents*", and listed as "*Intellectual Property Working Group Draft Report*."

So, should you submit comments? If any of the above discussion or anything else contained in the Green Paper affects you or your business, putting in your two cents on the next change in copyright law could be a good idea. Also, keep in mind that lobbying groups

may seek at this point to intercede and try to make the ultimate White Paper issued by the Working Group very different from the Green Paper, in ways that specifically benefit their large company backers without regard to anyone else. Your countervailing sentiments, powerfully presented, could make a difference here. Or perhaps it is reason enough to realize that the Working Group's broad invitation of public comments, easily deliverable by e-mail, is one of the first powerful examples of the more effective direct democracy enabled by our burgeoning electronic networks.

*[Lance Rose is an attorney and writer practicing high-tech and information law in Montclair, NJ with the firm Lance Rose & Associates. He can be found on the Internet at elrose@path.net, and on CompuServe at 72230,2044. He is also author of **SysLaw**, the legal guide for online service providers, available from PC Information Group at 800-321-8285. - Editor]*

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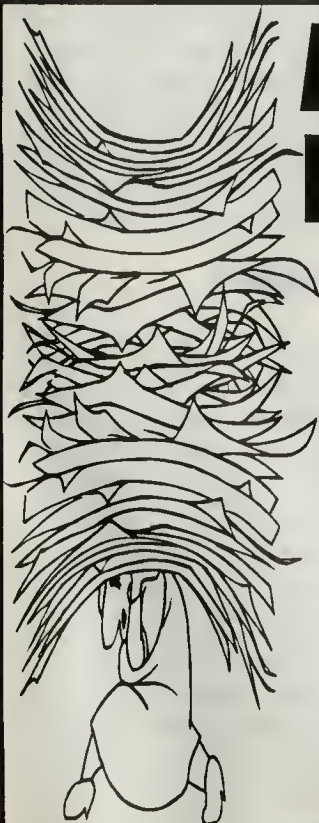
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DELPHI ANNOUNCES 14,400 AND 9600 ACCESS

by Walt Howe

The big news on Delphi that many users were waiting for was the announcement that **9600** and **14,400** access are now formally supported, and best of all, there was no increase in online charges for the higher rates. **14,400** bps access is only officially accessible through direct dial to Cambridge or Boston, Massachusetts or by telnet from other Internet sites. However, members are reporting that they are finding unannounced **14,400** bps nodes on Sprintnet and Tymnet from time to time. Obviously, the packet nets are testing the faster rates themselves, and they should become more wide spread in the months to come.

Delphi's direct dial phone lines have been upgraded for any subscriber to connect at **14,400** bps by dialing modem **617/492-9600** or **617/476-9600**. For some who lack local access numbers through Sprintnet or Tymnet, these are often the least expensive options to use.

At heaviest peak times, **9600** rates may drop off 10 to 15%, but the full rate is supported most of the time. DELPHI was confident enough to create a **/SPEED** command by which anyone can check to see the speed currently offered.

"We've invested significant resources into our system capacity to accommodate Delphi's rapid growth," said General Manager and VP Rusty Williams. "Higher-speed access sets the stage for upcoming multi-media capabilities such as pictures, sounds, and graphics, all planned for the next phase of Delphi's development."

DELPHI UK OPENS IN JULY

Delphi gained connections with the UK when it was purchased by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. last Fall. The first public sign of these connections was the announcement that Delphi UK opens in July. Users in the UK will be able to connect with Delphi resources in the US and vice versa. It strengthens the overall service, and you can expect to see a lot more broadening of access to other areas of the world in the future.

EDUCATION DIVISION ANNOUNCED

More hints of Delphi's future appeared when Delphi announced the formation of an Education Division. The new Education Division is headed by Steven D. Hill, who previously served as Vice President/International for the Houghton Mifflin Company, a leading educational and general publishing company. As Director of the division, Mr. Hill's overall mandate will be to oversee the creation, design and development of online educational programming which will complement Delphi's current online services, including the development of new partnerships based on both News Corp. and non-News Corp. alliances.

DELPHI AND PHOENIX TECHNOLOGIES FORM STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Delphi announced on June 24th that it has formed a strategic alliance with Phoenix Technologies Ltd., through which Phoenix will market and distribute an online service package bundling Delphi's services with customized Windows-based software for easier online access. Soon, Delphi signup kits will be in the stores alongside the present ones from the other major services.

Under this agreement, Phoenix Technologies, a leader in the end-user software industry for communications and utilities, will have exclusive rights to market and distribute Delphi's software products and user manuals through retail channels. Beginning in July, Delphi will work with Phoenix Technologies' Eclipse Division to package its services and products with computers, modems and communications suites for distribution to original-equipment manufacturers, end-user customers and retail outlets nationwide. The customized Windows-based software under development (see below) simplifies subscribing to the online service and makes using and navigating Delphi and the Internet much easier for PC users.

NVN USERS SWARM TO DELPHI'S CUSTOM FORUMS

In mid-June, the National Videotex Network, more commonly known as NVN, closed its virtual doors and suspended services. In the days that



followed, thousands of its users found their way to Delphi. While we are sorry to see any online service fall into troubles, we are glad that Delphi was able to provide a new home for many of its users. Delphi opened Custom Forum 200 as a place to meet for former NVNers. Taking advantage of Delphi's policy of allowing members to open their own Custom Forums, the NVNers responded by opening 30 to 40 new custom forums of their own, paralleling the areas they had been using on NVN. As a result, Delphi now has, just to name a few, a Flight Simulator Forum, the National Online Quilters, the Horror Discussion Group, the Investors Forum, the Absolute Best Cat Forum, the Gambling Around America Forum, the Singles Around 50 Forum, and a new Off Line Reader (OLR), named Rainbow, ported over from NVN by its author, David Colston (see below).

OFF-LINE READERS

Delphi has never provided their own software (other than passing along a version of Crosstalk to those who asked for one). Delphi has relied on commercial, shareware, and public domain software to meet the needs of members. This has been a strength in some ways by allowing members to use their favorite software. It has also been a problem for Member Services and the SIG managers and Forum hosts, because they have had to cope with many different versions of download software, editing software, and various differences in emulations. When full Internet access was added, the problems multiplied manifold, because not only did the staff have to keep track of differences in software on Delphi, but also the many differences in the way soft-

ware behaved as it was used on different Internet systems and interfaces and a multitude of different operating systems. When a member asks how to send an Escape key from a Macintosh through local phone lines and Tymnet to Delphi's VAX VMS system across an Internet telnet (remote login) connection to an IBM tn3270 mainframe, finding the answer is no easy task. The easy solution, adopted by some services, is to control the problems by limiting membership to two or three computers and providing the software to members. Delphi has resisted this to keep access open to all, and pledges to continue as a service for all computers in the future.

Long ago, recognizing the need for some standardized software, Perry Leopold, known as PERRY on Delphi, developed an off line reader for Delphi called D-Lite. Initially for MS DOS only, he later added a Macintosh version, too. It provides the capability to sign on, grab all waiting mail at top speed, visit selected message forums and scoop up their new messages, and upload replies prepared offline to previous mail and messages. It catalogs databases and controls downloads and uploads, too. It is similar to CompuServe's TAPCIS or OZCIS in this respect. One difference between TAPCIS and OZCIS, however, is that it is a one-pass system. The CompuServe software enables capturing titles only on a first pass, and then run a second pass, collecting message texts on the messages selected from the first pass. PERRY explains that the Delphi system makes it much harder to implement two-pass software.

After Delphi added Usenet newsgroups as part of their Internet Services, PERRY adapted D-Lite to capture selected newsgroups and upload replies. This is at present only available on the MS DOS version. Both versions are available and are given good support in PERRY's D-Lite SIG on Delphi.

Recently, two more off-line readers have been developed—one for Windows and one for OS/2. Scout was developed for Windows, and it is available in the PC SIG Database. ODN was developed for OS/2 by Terry Roller and is supported in Custom Forum 41. I have not tried either of these myself, but those who have tried them support them strongly.

Most recently, David Colston joined the crew moving over from NVN and performed overnight miracles by adapting his popular NVN OLR share

ware, called Rainbow, to Delphi. It first appeared in beta version about a week after he first signed on. Since then, he has added news group support, not available before on NVN. He also honored all previous registrations of Rainbow, passing along the Delphi version to former registrants with no charge. Rainbow is available in the Custom Forum 200 Database.

Delphi has announced that future improvements in the system will be shared with all software developers, so that others can continue to develop software to meet the needs of many different groups, whether for specific computers or specific special needs, such as the visually impaired.

DELPHI SOFTWARE

Delphi in the meantime has been moving forward on several generations of new software that they intend to provide as an option first for Windows and later for Mac users. The first Windows version, in late beta testing as this is written, is open for members to use. It provides a much improved editor, proven upload and download software, and freedom from backspace problems, emulation problems, and all the little nagging problems that bother both members and those who help them. It is not an OLR, however, That will come later.

It is a common misconception that Delphi would prefer people to stay online as long as possible, since revenue is linked to some extent to online time. But in terms of overall system resources, it is much more cost effective to help people to get on and off as quickly as possible. Delphi's early software is designed to solve the most immediate problems of compatibility and editing. Later versions will be aimed at maximizing system resources, while at the same time launching into the online era of multimedia and using the world wide resources of News Corp and the Internet. Thus, the next generation software that Delphi introduces, perhaps in early 1995, will not only support online sound and graphics and the latest generation of search tools on the Internet, but also support "blinker" functions, where users can get on and off as quickly as possible.

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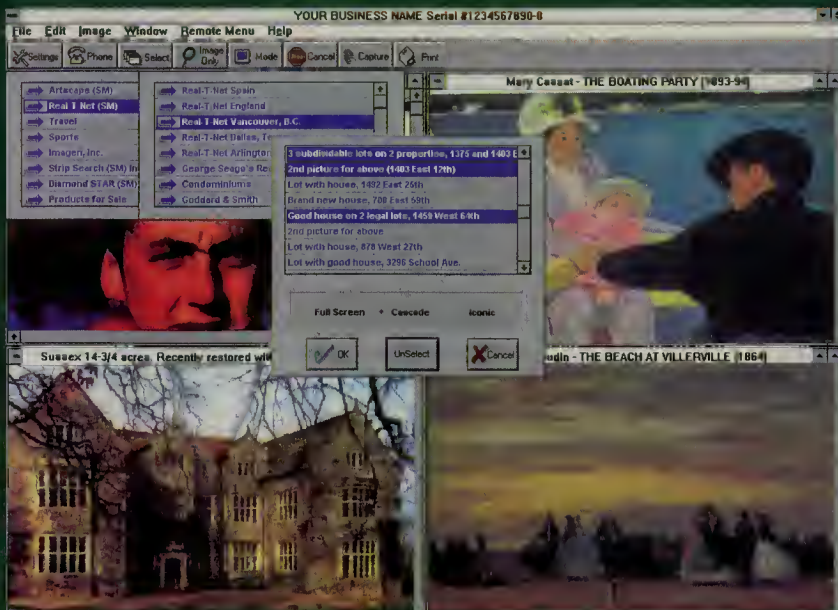
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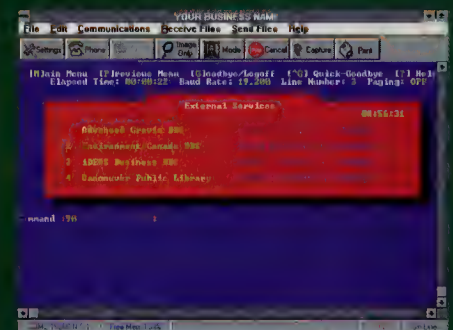
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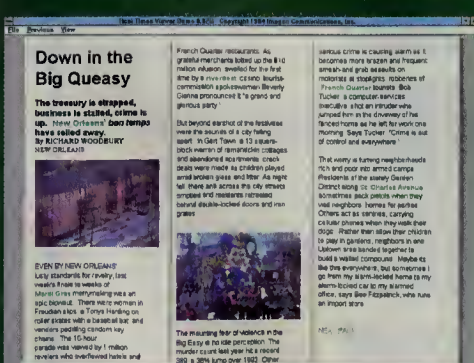
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I WANT MY MTV! AND OTHER MONEY MATTERS ON AOL



By Dave Tennant

HHEY! YO! Are you a middle-aged, fat-around-the-middle technogeek who sits in front of a computer too many hours of the day? Ever wanted to transform yourself into a pimple-faced teenage puke who revels in spewing nihilistic crap online and use the word "Penis!" while you flame anyone who comes within screen-shot range!? Well has AOL got a treat for you! MTV Online's debut has opened up a new level of deep, intensely emotional, if not entirely gratifying, modeming experience for the cyberpunks of the MTV generation. MTV - Music Television for the uninitiated and anyone who's been dead or hasn't watched cable for the last 14 years - has brought a brand new kind of interchange to the otherwise genteel world of America Online.

Called by the AOL pundits "Your Porta-John On the InfoMation Eye-Weigh," this newest of forums is AOL's reach out to the younger set. What the heck, president Clinton reached out to these juvies, didn't he. Maybe they are just free spirited youth. Either way, be warned: don't go into this lightly! I've heard and read about flammers, and even been flamed once myself in the Gay and Lesbian Forum (they told me politely to F__ Off!). But nothing prepared me for the hour of abuse I experienced when I plunged into the MTV Online area. This is your ticket into the adolescent mindset, replete with every new kind of reference to human genitalia known to

man, at least from the screenview of the droneheads of MTV.

All kidding aside, this concept of MTV Online begs the question - How good could a non-multimedia online forum be for a crowd who has redefined the music world and thrives solely on the purveyance of second-by-second visual images of Rock, RAP, Alternative, and any other type of music - except Country? (Don't tell me it's the music; one only has to listen to Counting Crows' song "Round Here" - ranked number 10 on the top twenty chart, to know better.)

The answer? ... it's O.K. AOL in general is not known for its revolutionary multimedia online service, and the future looks, well, pretty much like more of the same. Don't get me wrong. AOL is still one of the easiest and most user-friendly interfaces to use online, but so far there are no pictures; only text and cute icons. So what can you expect from MTV Online? More text and cute icons. AOL President Steve Case, who has just been named "Entrepreneur of the Year" by Ernst & Young, Merrill Lynch and Inc. Magazine, stated in a recent letter that any changes in the AOL interface would be more "evolutionary, not revolutionary." In other words Steve is telling us, don't hold your breath for AOL to implement a true multimedia interface unless you prefer a blue complexion.

This jives with AOL's press release regarding MTV: "... developing new interfaces and new experiences for online users that are centered on communication..." Bottom line, one

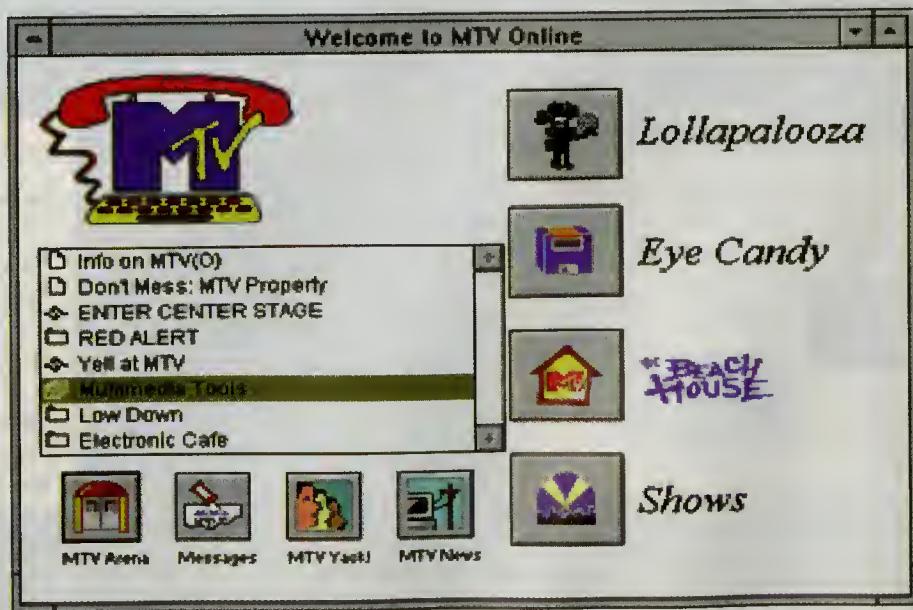
DOES NOT get the flashy world of MTV at AOL's MTV forum. The Droneheads are kinda stuck with the rest of us using just words to communicate ideas. That isn't half bad though! Go into the forum and you'll see more creative uses of the English language faster than you can say "Lollapalooza." Some of the writing is pretty innovative and alive, particularly compared to the stuff dried up old farts like me write such as in the second half of this column. But for the most part it's: "You Suck! No, You Suck! No No No, He Sucks!" Don't believe me. Check it for yourself — if you don't YOU SUCK! (Just kidding...)

To enter press CTRL+K and enter the keyword "MTV." The first time you enter the MTV area you will experience a 1 or 2 minute delay (9600 baud during non peak periods) while the your AOL software is updated for the MTV menus.

Click/button MTV Shows and you can sound off on MTV Sports (is that an oxymoron?), Beavis and Butthead (my personal favorite; heh heh heh heh), Real World, Dead at 21, The State, Alternative Nation, The Grind, Headbangers Ball, or Yo! MTV Raps.

Click/button MTV Arena and you can get transcripts for raps with the DJs from Lollapalooza (there were none when I checked; go figure!), the MTV Beach House, or any "brain-2-brain kontakt" with the "stars."

Want to unload on Kurt Loder or Kennedy, the super cool MTV equivalents of Dan Rather and Connie Chung, then click/button MTV News and "Yell





at MTV News." (Yell, Bitch, Moan, and Whine, seem to be the operative verbs for interaction on MTV Online.) I'd like to say that you could get a picture of Loder from the MTV News Image bank, but "they ain't there!" So much for that "power of visuals" thing.

BTW, that's another yukkies about this forum. MTV Online for some reason uses two basic formats for viewing their picture files, one for images and one for movies. To view most of the files you have to have aversion of Apple's Quicktime, either for the Macintosh or for Windows. A runtime version is sufficient, that comes with several multimedia products, however. If you are strictly a DOS user, well in the MTV parlance, YOU SUCK! You can download a shareware version of the software from their Multimedia File and go through the arcane hassle of stripping the files of the code for viewing if you want to. I did it for a couple and frankly didn't think they were worth the trouble. Then again, I didn't think the entire forum was worth the trouble either. If you do think either is worth the trouble, make sure you read the Red Alert message on the main MTV Online menu. They have the necessary instructions for both Mac and Windows users. I downloaded some of the most off-downloaded files, the Beastie Boys, Smashing Pumpkins, Daisy Fuentes, and well, what the hell do I know anyway.

A nice thing, for those parents wanting to save their phone bills (and maybe their children's sensibilities) is the

parental control button, when activated from the main account, will block instant messages, all rooms, conference rooms (the ones with the role-playing games), or just member rooms. All in all, the MTV Online forum is an experience you shouldn't miss - but might wish you had. I didn't, and I do.

MONEY MATTERS ON AOL

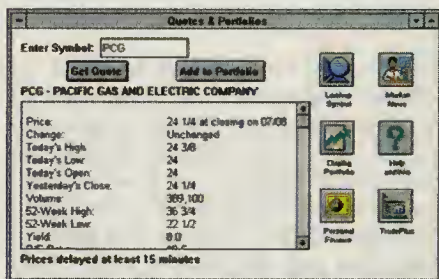
Let me switch tracks, and generations. If you are a baby boomer you have probably heard the dire predictions. For most baby boomers the financial outlook for retiring doesn't look very promising. According to a U.S. News and World Report retirement Guide for 1994 (the June issue), boomers can look forward



to prices QUADRUPLING by the time they reach retirement age! That's accounting for only a 4% annual inflation rate. Put another way, according to the report, for every \$10,000 of yearly income in today's dollars, "the average 48 year old will need to have \$330,000 in a tax deferred retirement plan on the eve of retirement." Yikes! Those who want the equivalent of \$50,000 per year

will need \$1.7 million! The report's conclusion is that now is the time to "step on the gas."

I've worked for years at building a modest portfolio (very modest) and while I am by no means an expert, I am aware of tools available to the investor such as journals (Barron's, The Wall Street Journal, and Investor's Daily), TV shows (the Nightly Business Report, Louis Rukeyser and Wall Street Week, and Adam Smith's Money World), as well as your friendly, local (and hopefully honest) stockbroker. All these sources of electronic and personal information are great for precisely that reason, they provide mountains and ranges of financial data with which to commit and entrust your nest egg. But excepting your stock broker, those other sources are not interactive. After all these years of studying and experimenting in financial issues, I still have only a few people with whom I can make reality checks, including my one or two brokers.



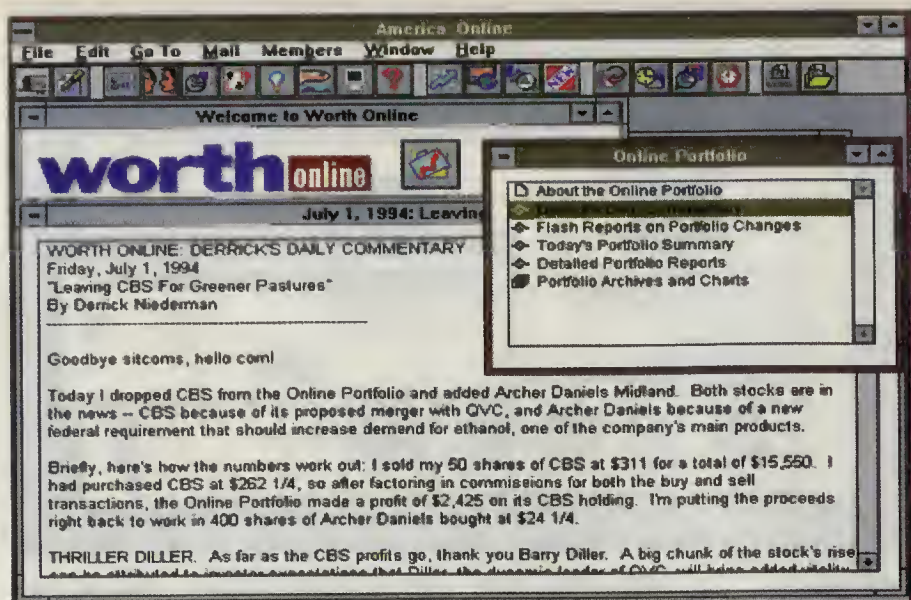
I was glad then to see that America Online has created what they call a Personal Finance Business Unit (FBU for short). Originally made up of the "Bulls and Bears" game and stocklink stock quotes, AOL has added the Morningstar Mutual Fund Report, the Nightly Business Report, a Tax forum, Reuters News Service, Hoover's Handbook database for searching stock quotes and company information, and Worth Magazine, an investment periodical along the lines of Money Magazine. If you are one of the Boomers out there who are investment conscious and wanting to prepare an appropriate and adequate financial portfolio for retirement, these AOL tools are at least worth looking into.

What do all these services have in common? Several things: they all have pretty quick and easy access to information - if you know what you are looking for. Each for the most part has the ability to look up stock quotes, read articles on investment strategies, find explanations and definitions to unfamiliar financial terms, and most importantly, provide a forum where users can talk

online with other users. This last item is probably the most significant one because often in the world of financials, networking is a valuable source of information and a well of knowledge, but it is usually severely limited to with whom you hang around. In this online financial community though, there are lots of regular Joes just looking for some good advice or help. Having said this let me add, caveat emptor! As in anything, one has to be careful on what to buy and it is even more the case in this instance where people can pose as virtually anyone. I read a message from a probably well-meaning fellow who encouraged others he chatted with to buy Circus Circus stock; he said it would reach an all time high. What it has really done is gone on a precipitous plunge! Even still, the ability to ask questions of the service analysts, forum leaders, and columnists is worth the price of admission. I'd be remiss if I didn't relate a few of the things I find interesting about AOL's FBU. Let's take a quick look at some of these services.

Tom Lichty wrote a terrific book on AOL for Windows (I refer to the book all the time and it's available by ordering online). In it he provides in chapter five some useful examples of how to learn the stock market by playing the game "Bulls and Bears." It's an easy game to grasp; you play the market with virtual money, buying and trading stock, all the while trying to build the largest portfolio on the block, or in this case, in the forum. There are only a few rules, one of which is that you can't sell short. The game has full instructions and rules, plus menus, and even a message board for insider information. The "Bulls and Bears" game has the added benefit of offering prizes of free time (up to 10 free hours on AOL for first place, awarded each month) and even a listing of the Millionaires club. Last time I checked "Tight 1" had won for that month with a total portfolio value of **\$256,129**. Competition was tight (no pun intended) with Pepsman1 reaching a portfolio value of **\$249,512** in virtual dollars. This is a good game for beginners because it offers a pretty harmless method of becoming aware of the terms and concepts involved in trading, without the risk. Its simplicity is a weakness if you want to play fast and loose in the market.

For market news with a 15 minute delay, keyword "Market News" and find information at the touch of a button, from the markets at a glance, the NYSE, AMEX, DJ Indexes, open, midday and



closing numbers, most active and largest changes, numbers for the NASDAQ, and even information for the International markets, commodities, and futures. Moreover, there is information on money and currency exchange rates, and access to the latest numbers of the leading economic indicators (which help me greatly in my line of work).

Lichty goes on to explain in his book the forum "Your Money" (Keyword "Your Money") which includes a financial planning message board, articles, a folder for listing financial planning services, and of course, the disclaimer, in case none of these financial schemes and dreams work out. The forum offers articles on a wide array of subjects such as "Zero coupon bonds," "Tax exempt securities," "Revocable Living Trusts," and a "Guide to Mortgage Refinancing."

MORNINGSTAR MUTUAL FUNDS

Mutual fund offerings are growing at an amazing speed. Just a few years ago you could list all the funds on a quarter sheet of newsprint (including ads), but now that same listing takes up to three pages in the WSJ. The Morningstar mutual fund report (MS) gives the AOL user access to over **3,300** mutual funds. If you are unsure about mutual funds, you can check out the guided tour of the overview of the service. You'll get as much help, if not more from the service as you would get from a broker, who usually doesn't have the time or the inclination to educate a novice investor. Like all the of the services, MS gives the latest in market news (with a price delay of 15 minutes), categorizes aggressive growth mutuals versus equity income funds, and provides access to European,

Foreign, Pacific, and World funds. As with all AOL forums, this one has a wealth of easy to use information databases and specific reports in the users' guide.

THE NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT

Besides providing up to the minute, day-by-day business reporting, nothing is more rhythmic than the Rat-tat-tat elocution of Paul Kangas as he delivers in staccato fashion the day's business news and his end-of-the-show op-ed piece. The NBR, according to their own press, is the most watched daily business news program on TV. NBR's sister business show, the Morning Business Report is also rapidly growing in viewer audience.

The main NBR Screen is a little deceptive in that it doesn't look to offer much, but dig deeper. NBR has an online report, an upcoming schedule of events (including mailing addresses where to reach guests), a message board called "Talking Business," a button showing results of NBR polls, and the a feature called "The Best of the Good Buys," a collection of videos for sale which cover information such as starting a business, buying insurance, planning your estate, or planning your retirement. (These tapes are usually **\$24.95** with a **\$4.00** s/h fee.) Nothing too spectacular so far. But wait, there's more.

This forum holds conferences so AOL users can chat live with reporters, anchors, and guests. You can leave messages with Adam Smith, Alfred E. Kahn, even Lester Thurow, one of the President's advisors. (How's that for access?) You can order NBR transcripts

online, get the stock symbol from the guest recommendation, or find out how to contact a Market Monitor guest. Want to read (or log) an interview with Viacom's Sumner Redstone (who by the way owns MTV), click/button Newsmaker Interviews and scroll the text while logging the session. Also available when I checked were Alice Rivlin, Director of the OMB, Andrew Grove, the President and CEO of Intel, and Mark Holowesko of Templeton Worldwide. (Call me an idiot but I think these folks have more worthwhile to read than the latest take on the MTV Summer Beach House.) As with all AOL forums worth their salt, this forum has an archive of past articles. I searched the word "inflation" and came up with 16 recent articles all germane to the subject. This forum is definitely worth a look see.

WORTH MAGAZINE

For investors who like to do more with their money than sit on it AOL offers Worth Magazine. Like any of the other growing number of online magazines, Worth carries articles, features, and columns that are, if you'll pardon the pun, mostly worthwhile. In this forum I found tips and advice on how to screen stocks, how to look for danger signs on financial statements, why money becomes more important than sex after awhile in a marriage (and I thought it was only me), and an op-ed on the inadvisability of the Balanced Budget amendment. Like TIME and other online magazines, Worth has a cover story (this edition's was "Americans and Their Money: A Portrait"), feature stories and sidebars with investment ideas and tips (this edition: "50 Blue Chips For The 90s").

Worth offers the wit and wisdom of the pundits, although Peter Lynch, a well-respected investment counselor, may rank a little higher than that. I recommend his book "One Up on Wall Street" to my economics students every chance I get, to give them a better grasp of how to play the market. Lynch's monthly column may be worth the whole magazine price (if you subscribed) for his down to earth explanations for why markets and companies do what they do. In this business of financials, everybody likes to call themselves experts, (sort of like journalism), but Lynch is bona fide. Tom Weber is the editor of Worth Online, (screen name WeberTom), and he pushes hard for all the "Worthwhile" features, but none I suspect is so interesting as the Worth Online Portfolio. This feature offers a daily look at how professional investment managers select stocks to buy and sell. This "virtual portfolio" is managed by Derrick Niederman, a stock analyst for Worth magazine. A Yale grad and former analyst at money-management firms, Niederman runs the half million dollar Worth Portfolio, launched last June. It's a model portfolio and invests funds in stocks only, with no option trading or short selling. And though Niederman uses virtual dollars and not the real thing, he does what any professional portfolio manager must do every day — he monitors the market, researches potential stock picks, and buys and sells stocks when opportunities arise.

Talk about an education! By checking Worth Online each day, you can watch this portfolio's operation from the inside. Instead of seeing a simple summary of the action, you'll be privy to Niederman's methods and opinions. Not

only can you watch first-hand how a portfolio manager responds to changing market conditions, you can ask him why he did this crazy thing or that, and search out the method to his madness! He includes "Derrick's Daily Commentary," "Flash Reports on Portfolio Changes," "Today's Portfolio Summary," an up-to-date summary of the portfolio's contents and value as posted each day, the latest closing prices, detailed portfolio reports, archives, and charts. You don't like what he did, post him at DNiederman@aol.com

There's more. There's the Tax Forum, Reuters, Richard Allridge's portfolio in the "Your Money" forum, all in all simply too much to go into. And there's the rub. I think for those who - like me, may not be too sophisticated about online investments, this may prove to be educational. But really, how worthwhile is it all? Because, in the final analysis with investments, you have to know what you're looking for. People who subscribe to the market reports or the professional wire services, who are serious about their investing, may not have time to work the myopic scope of these services, wonderful though they may be. They are after big fish and they make sure they have all the tools they need to land 'em. Here, you're just fishing, and the boat captain keeps the meter running.

Until next time.

[Dave Tennant is an Economics and English Instructor in Southern California. He can be reached on America Online at "Dtennan" or on the Internet at dtennan@eis.calstate.edu]

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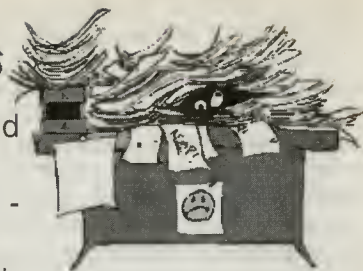
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BOARDWATCH

List of BBS List Keepers

This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.



BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Creative Edge BBS	Kevin Brook	Connecticut AC 203	(203)743-4044
Handicap News BBS	Bill McGarry	BBS With Handicapped Focus	(203)926-6168
Generic BBS	Victor Laking	Known Networks	(204)475-5199
Generic BBS	Victor Laking	Manitoba, Canada List AC 204	(204)475-5199
Eskimo North	Bob Dinse/Nanook	Seattle AC 206/West Washington	(206)367-3837
AmoCat BBS	Richard Langsford	Tacoma Washington AC 206	(206)566-1155
Orion Station	Art Tomlin	Puget Sound Area	(206)675-0565
Quicksilver BBS	Michael Schuyler	Kitsap County Washington	(206)780-2011
Street Corner BBS	Scott R. Bodeen	Maine 207	(207)442-0997
Anything Goes	Chris Mitchell, "Gomba"	Modesto, CA BBS List	(209)491-0782
Zen Den Systems	Jack Porter/Madera UG	Central California AC 209	(209)675-8436
The Gooley (GUI) BBS	David Shapiro	Graphical User Interface BBS	(212)876-5885
Downtown BBS	Ken Sukimoto	96 List - 9600+bps BBS	(213)484-0260
Blues Cafe	Mark Elson/Mike Shockley	Dallas/Ft. Worth BBS List	(214)638-1181
LGNP1 (login:BBS)	Phil Eschallier	Open Access UNIX Site List	(215)348-9727
Flip Flop	Jim Barry	Cleveland Area 216	(216)951-9134
KSI Public BBS	Joe McIntosh	Educational BBSs	(219)626-2150
KSI Public BBS	Joe McIntosh	Indiana BBSs	(219)626-2150
Coin of the Realm	D.Wendling/JS Christianso	Conservation/Nature BBS List	(301)585-6697
3WINKs BBS	Stan Staten	Ham/Amateur Radio BBS	(301)590-9629
HEX BBS	Richard Barth	Handicapped Issues BBS	(301)593-7357
Infinite Perspective	Frank Atlee	Desktop Publishing BBS	(301)924-0398
Talk Radio BBS	Vince Boehm/Dave Osburn	Delaware AC 302	(302)429-7667
Big Boy's BBS	Willis Morrow	Colorado AC 303/719	(303)458-3832
The CatEye BBS	Douglas L. Moore II	Cave Exploration BBSs	(304)592-3390
Silicon Beach BBS	Eric Thav	South Florida Area 305/407	(305)474-6512
SOCAL Corner	Mike Hefferman	Southern California	(310)422-7942
Illusions BBS	Jim Walton	California AC 310	(310)804-3324
Tony's Corner	Horst Mann	Detroit Area 313	(313)754-1131
Fire Escape's Dir	Beth Brooks	St. Louis AC 314	(314)741-9505
The RoadHouse BBS	Richard Holler	ASP BBS Member List	(317)784-2147
Computer Plumber	Arthur Petrzelka	Engineering Related BBS	(319)337-6723
Eagle's Nest	Mike Labbe	Rhode Island Area 401	(401)732-5292
T-8000	Stephen Decarie	Alberta AC 403	(403)246-4487
The Quantum BBS	Jeremy Birkett	Calgary Alberta AC 403	(403)252-5119
OASIS	Online Atlanta Society	Atlanta Area 404	(404)627-2662
The INDEX System	Rodney Aloia	Atlanta Area 404	(404)924-8472
Valley Light BBS	Jay Michalik	Montana Area	(406)273-6399
Montana MediaNet	Chad Payne	Searchlight BBS Systems	(406)549-6325
Infinite Space Onlin	Lenny Lacuy	Orlando BBS List AC 407	(407)856-0021
BABBA BBS	Mark Shapiro	San Francisco Bay Area	(408)946-8592
Silver Streak BBS	Brad Blase	Baltimore BBS Area 410	(410)683-0300
Zuul's Catacombs	Chas Stokes	Pittsburgh AC 412	(412)264-9787
Ameriboard	DP McIntire/Beth Spotts	National BBS List	(412)349-6862
The Castle	Mark G.	Miwaukee Area 414	(414)327-5085
Natural Connection	Patrick O'Brien	North America Nudist List	(414)426-2110
Toledo's TBBS	Ryck Zarick	Toledo Ohio Area 419/313	(419)475-2241

BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
The Blue & The Grey	Bob Underdown	Arkansas Area 501	(501)444-8420
DawGone Disgusted	Lisa Gronke	Portland Oregon BBS	(503)297-9145
Southern Star BBS	Jeff Jones	New Orleans BBS List	(504)885-5928
MDC Computers BBS	Dan Kiehl	New Mexico Area Code (505)	(505)434-0258
Software Creations	Dan Linton	Apogee/ID/Software Crtns List	(508)368-7139
ponyXpress BBS	Ruben Melo	PCBoards on Internet	(508)587-7669
Miwok Village BBS	Jim Metzler	Worcester MA AC (508)	(508)754-6512
Treasure Island	James Cordani	Corpus Christi	(512)241-8358
Camel's Back BBS	John Foster	Austin Area BBS List AC 512	(512)243-0077
J&J's BBS	Joseph Caplinger & Son	Selected BBS	(513)236-1229
Long Island Exchange	Harold Stein	AC 516 Free Shareware BBS	(516)271-5303
Wolverine BBS	Rick Rosinski/SAMM	Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan	(517)695-9952
Delight The Customer	Dennis Hauser	Business/Professional BBS	(517)797-3740
Majestic Royalty BBS	John Mendivil	Phoenix AC (602)	(602)278-1651
Cheese Whiz BBS	Sue Widemark	Phoenix AC (602)	(602)279-0793
The Commo Shack BBS	Kevin McCrory	Cochise County Arizona	(602)452-0587
Island Net	Mark Morley	Victoria/Vancouver AC 604	(604)477-5163
Kentucky Explorer	Jon Hagee	Kentucky AC (606)	(606)271-1451
JW-PC Dataflex.HST	Jim Wargula	Wisconsin 608	(608)837-1923
The Casino BBS	Dave Schubert	New Jersey AC 609	(609)485-2380
Praedo BBS	Wayne R. Morton	New Jersey Area 201/609/908	(609)953-0769
Black Bag	Edward Del Grosso	Medical Issues BBS	(610)454-7396
Abiogenetic BBS	Barry Watson	Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612	(612)774-8454
Way Out	Mike Shecket	Apple II BBS	(614)436-4846
SPDA Info Service	unknown	Tennessee AC 615/901	(615)952-5638
The Pacific Rim	Brenda Donovan	Female Sysops	(619)278-7361
ComputerEdge	Tom Grigg	San Diego, CA AC 619	(619)573-1675
General Alarm	Joe Nicholson	San Diego AC 619	(619)669-0385
pro-sol	Morgan Davis	Apple II BBS with Internet con	(619)670-5379
PC Power House	Eddie Gebhard	Virginia AC 703/804	(703)348-1423
OS2/Shareware BBS	Pete Norloff	OS/2 BBS Systems	(703)385-4325
NGS-CIG	Richard A. Pence	Genealogy Related BBS	(703)528-2612
Moobasi Optics, Ink	Blaine Schmidt	Charlotte, NC AC 704	(704)541-9842
BDPA BAC BBS	Arthur McGee	Indigenous People BBSs	(707)552-3314
BDPA BAC BBS	Arthur "Rambo" McGee	Black Run/Oriented BBS	(707)552-3314
Royal Swedish Viking	Peter Anvin	Chicago	(708)491-9036
Risqilly BBS	Billy Kennedy	Gay & Lesbian BBS List	(708)495-6609
ChicAgo Hangar	Rex Chadwell	Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs	(708)980-1613
Atomic Cafe BBS	David E. Wachenschwanz	Houston Area 713	(713)530-8875
Korea America Online	Wayne Jeong	Korean BBSs	(714)449-9373
Logan's Run	Tracy Logan	Rochester NY AC 716	(716)328-2914
Antarctica BBS	Mario Mueller	RIP BBS Listing	(717)755-2440
Cyberia	Adam Viener	717 AC BBS Listing	(717)840-1444
EarthArt BBS	Bob Chapman	Ecology/Conservation BBS	(803)552-4389
Wildcat! HQ	Jim Harrer	Wildcat! BBS	(805)873-2400
His Board	Larry Honore	Central California Area 805	(805)652-1478
Land's End BBS	Brent Davis	Oahu Hawaii	(808)499-2527
Digicom BBS	Gary Barr	Technical Support BBS List	(812)479-1310
Mercury Opus	Emery Mandel	Pinellas/Tampa Florida AC 813	(813)321-0734
Sound Advice	Roy Timberman	Kansas City Area 816/913	(816)436-4516
Mysteria	Phil Hansford	Occult BBS	(818)353-8891
Night Gallery	John Rigali	Commodore 64/128/Amiga BBS	(818)448-8529
Seventh Dimension	Shawn Berry	Durham Region-Ontario Canada	(905)571-6052
Alaska Pirate Soc.	Patti Johnson	Alaska AC 907	(907)248-9364
AK Information Cache	Robert Southwick	Travel Related BBSs	(907)373-3205
Bob's BBS	Bob Breedlove	Darwin National USBBS List	(916)929-7511
LiveNet 1:170/110	Dave Fisher	OS/2 Related BBS	(918)481-5715
ACCESS AMERICA	Linda Hargraves	Tulsa Oklahoma Area BBS List	(918)747-2542
Micro Message Svc.	Mike Stroud	Raleigh NC Area Code 919	(919)779-6674
Catalyst BBS	Henk Wolsink	Republic of South Africa	27-41-34-1122
The Warehouse BBS	Cesar Keller	Switzerland BBS List	41-1-492-5157

TELECONFUSION

WHERE ARE WE?

by Charles Moore

It's a hard trip. Just the four of us, myself, Jack, Roger and Brian in a 35 foot gas guzzling, air conditioned road hog motor home from hell on a journey from hell to a hellacious show, known to one and all as ONE BBSCON - the premier online event.

We wanted to take the Hummer, only Jack hasn't got one yet, just as well, Roger gets just a little testy in traffic, and who knows what he'd do with a four wheel drive like that, not that the motor home will be much better, but we plan on having him drive the graveyard shift so the rest of us won't have to watch. As long as he gets enough Codeine, Roger said he doesn't care when he drives, or where.

While loading up this road going ocean liner, we knew there were some particularly specialized supplies we were going to be needing. For one, a CU-SeeMe equipped computer so that we could do teleconferencing once we got to the show and show everyone there just how neat it really is. For another, we've strapped a giant version of the March issue to the roof of our mobile beast just to show everyone how much the magazine really is growing. I, myself packed along four or five harmonicas and a couple of guitars, - heard they have some bitchin' blues clubs in Atlanta, and Roger is bringing along a small bass amp for his guitar so that the lot of us won't be unduly subjected to hour upon hour of listening to Jack play the six hour soundtrack to "Lonesome Dove," over and over again - although Brian assured me he'd destroy the tape "accidentally" the minute Jack's eyes closed - only problem is sometimes that takes a few days given a large supply of coffee and cigarettes.

While both Roger and Brian bitched about having to bring along suits and ties as part of their wardrobes, I assured them it was the only way they were going to get a free meal, they fell for it - hook line and sinker. Simple minds for complex times.

We pulled out on a bright Sunday afternoon, with myself at the wheel and the rest of the crew bouncing around within our monstrous ride. Somewhere around the Colorado/Kansas border, I needed to relieve myself and left the plush

comfort and safety of the captain's chair putting the beast on auto pilot. Boy, you should've seen the expressions on my compatriots faces when I was back there with them hanging out, you'd have thought I was a ghost. I tried to explain that the ship was on auto pilot, but Roger dashed for the wheel anyway - frantically screaming something about cruise control is not an auto pilot - like he'd know, he's a bass player for chris-sakes.

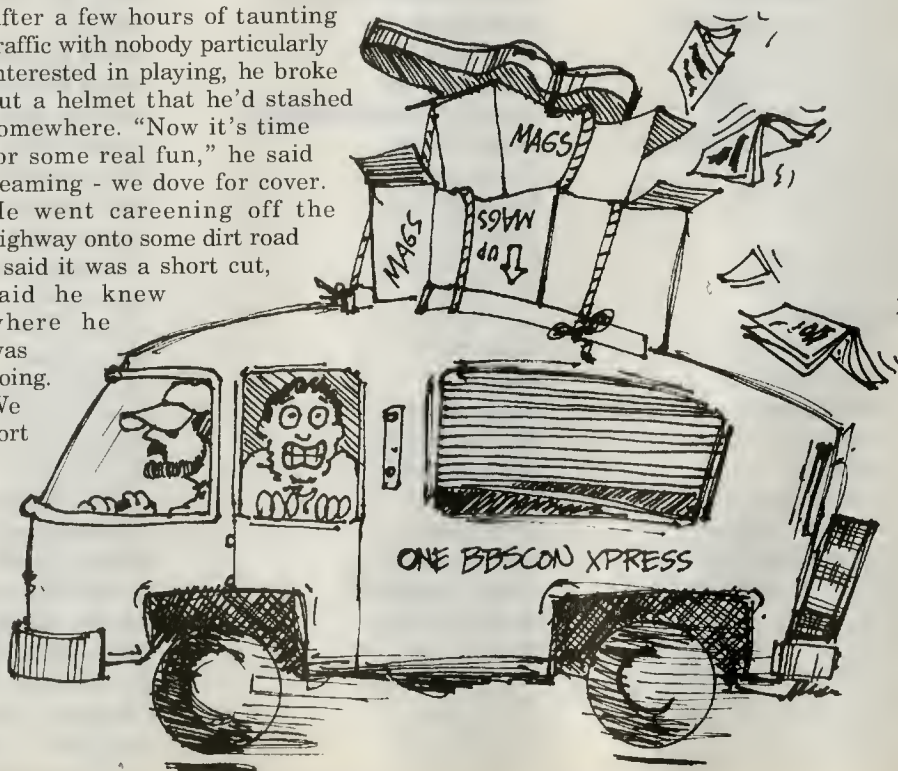
With Roger still at the wheel we pulled into St. Louis and found an adventure in parallel parking that nearly landed us all in jail. Roger kept saying something about Fresno and was having the worst trouble navigating a U-turn, while Jack and Brian just cringed. It was one of those nonstop journeys, trading pilots at five hour intervals and jokes the whole way.

Brian took over out of St. Louis and was really impressed by the stamina of our palace. "Once you get this baby doing 75 or 80 mph, there just isn't any stopping you," he said wedging a fairly weighty 3 gig hard drive against the accelerator pedal. Every time we came upon another motorhome, he'd wave out the window trying to get people to race us for pink slips - kids. I just can't remember how many times I've told him - "No acid 18 hours before driving."

After a few hours of taunting traffic with nobody particularly interested in playing, he broke out a helmet that he'd stashed somewhere. "Now it's time for some real fun," he said beaming - we dove for cover. He went careening off the highway onto some dirt road - said it was a short cut, said he knew where he was going. We sort

of half believed him until he started babbling something about Bo and Luke Duke and how the motor home really had a lot more clearance than you'd think - good sturdy suspension and all. That did it, Roger and I grabbed him while Jack wrestled the wheel away. After he was sufficiently subdued, we locked him outside, (I think he rode up on the roof), Jack insisted on driving the rest of the way, "Just feed me coffee with lots of cream, sugar and a dash of that Maaggi soy sauce - don't over stir."

At one point just outside the peach state, a small red convertible Mercedes didn't take our turn signal seriously and we nearly had a Mercedes sidecar for a moment there, when just at the last moment it got away - a great disappointment to all. But pulling into the Inforum in Atlanta our spirits soared once again, as we recalled what our real mission was...free food. After this long hard trip we could really use some down home southern cookin'. Roger says that if we play our cards right, we can get some pretty heavy grunts most anywhere so long as we're polite. Hamhocks, grits, black beans, fried chicken, okra, deep fried catfish, gumbo, who knows maybe even some fired pig belly! It's been a hard trip, and boy am I hungry.



BOARDWATCH
MAGAZINE

BBS SOFTWARE VENDORS

September 1994

Product	Company	Voice	FAX	BBS	Platform	Tele Lines	LAN	PC	MultiTasker	LANLogons	FIDO	Internet	QWK	Other	Chat	Price:MAX	Price:MIN
CNet Pro 3	Perspective Software	313-537-6168	313-537-5942	313-255-2466	Amiga	Unlim 100	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$229.95	\$229.95
CocoNet	CocoNet Computing, Inc	619-456-2002	619-456-0815	619-456-0815	UNIX	1000	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$18.995	\$395
DLG Professional	Telepro Technologies	403-341-7826	403-341-7826	403-347-3262	AMIGA	Unlim 29	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$299	\$299
Excaltur BBS	Excaltur Communications, Inc	918-496-7881	918-491-0033	918-496-8113	Windows	Unlim 8	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$349	\$199
EXCEL SIORI Pro	Sycron Design Software	313-774-2153	313-772-5802	313-772-6442	Amiga	Unlim	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$199	\$199
Faulken	INFO*Share, Inc	703-791-2910	703-791-2910	703-749-2889	DOS	64	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$999	\$149
FirstClass	SoftArc, Inc	416-299-4723	416-754-1856	416-609-2250	MAC	100	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$3450	\$95
GAP	GAP Development Co	714-496-3774	714-496-3774	714-493-3819	DOS	100	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$359	\$79
Hermes II	Computer Classifieds	206-643-2316	206-643-7830	206-643-2874	MAC	10	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$95	\$95
hi-BBS	XBR Communications	514-489-1001	514-489-4966	514-489-0445	MAC	130	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$3400	\$70
Kitten	TelPro Technologies	804-442-5865	804-442-5867	804-442-5867	DOS/OS2	999	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$195	\$195
Magnum BBS	Gilmore Systems	805-379-3210	805-379-1341	805-379-3450	OS/2	Unlim	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$900	\$195
MEGAHOST	ASCII Computer Enterprises	-	503-883-7879	209-836-2402	DOS	10	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$49	\$49
Multi-Net	Multi-Net Communications	503-883-8099	503-883-8197	503-883-8197	OS2	999	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$895	\$195
Novalink Professional	ResNova Software Inc	714-379-9000	714-379-9014	714-379-9004	MAC	Unlim 40	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	\$300
OPUS-CBCS	214-528-4687	-	214-528-4943	214-528-4943	DOS	255	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Free	Free
PCBoard	Clark Development, Inc	801-261-1686	801-261-8987	801-261-8976	DOS	1000+	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$10000	\$170
PowerBBS	Power Computing	516-938-0506	914-833-3479	516-822-7396	Windows	Unlim 9	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$189	\$99
Proboard BBS	NUIQ Software, Inc	914-833-3479	914-833-3623	914-833-1479	DOS	999	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$2300	\$99
Proboard	ProBoard International	612-537-8655	612-537-8613	612-537-8659	DOS	255	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$49	\$49
Proline	Morgan Davis group	619-670-0563	619-670-9643	619-670-5379	APPLE II	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$159.95	\$159.95
RATsoft ST	ROdent Laboratories Software	-	801-756-2901	801-756-2901	ATARI	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-
RemoteAccess	Wantee	913-441-1336	913-441-0596	913-441-0595	DOS	250	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$529	\$149
RoboBoard/FX	Hamilton TeleGraphics	800-363-7626	819-685-0994	819-682-7771	DOS	255	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$400	\$95
RyBBS	The Ryco Company	414-962-5967	-	414-962-1097	DOS	9	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$175	\$75
Sapphire	Pinnacle Software	514-345-9578	514-733-8644	514-345-8654	DOS	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$45	\$45
Searchlight BBS	Searchlight Software	800-780-5483	216-631-9289	216-631-9290	MAC	Unlim 10	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$999	\$99
Second Sight Software	FreeSoft Co.	412-846-2700	-	412-846-5312	DOS	2	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	\$199
SplitFire BBS	Buffalo Creek Software	515-225-9552	714-529-9721	515-225-8496	DOS	255	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$85	\$85
Synchronet	Digital Dynamics	714-529-6328	303-699-6872	714-529-5313	DOS	250	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$399	\$99
TBBS	eSoft, Inc	303-699-6565	303-699-6872	303-699-8222	DOS	64	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$1995	\$295
TEAMate	MMB Development Corp.	310-318-1322	310-318-2162	310-318-5302	UNIX	Unlim -	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$125000	\$2000
Telefinder	Spider Island Software	714-669-9260	714-669-1383	714-730-5785	MAC	200	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$2000	\$425
The Major BBS	Galactcomm, Inc.	305-583-5990	305-583-7846	305-583-7808	DOS	256	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$10717	\$259
TinyHost	Bruce Krobusek	716-924-8284	716-924-4193	716-924-4193	DOS	1	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$25	\$25
TriBBS	TriSoft	207-941-0805	207-941-9388	207-941-0805	DOS	255	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$75	\$75
UltraBBS	CDB Systems, Inc	303-444-7071	303-444-0035	303-642-7463	DOS	Unlim 4	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$75	\$75
Virtual BBS	Virtual Technologies	210-787-2443	616-399-8934	616-399-4818	DOS/OS2	16	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$999	\$99
Wildcat!	Mustang Software, Inc.	805-873-2500	805-873-2599	805-873-2400	DOS	250	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$799	\$129
WWIV	WWIV Software Services	210-631-6090	-	210-631-5841	DOS	999	DV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$320	\$802/Max
XChange	Z/Max Computer Solutions, Inc	315-635-1882	315-635-1908	-	UNIX	Unlim -	OS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	\$695

Y = YES

N = NO

I = INTERNAL

O = OPTIONAL

3 = THIRD PARTY

BB NOTE MANAGER, CHAT AND EMAIL MANAGER TOP BARRAGE OF NEW FEATURES



by Ric Manning

Prodigy Product Manager Steve Larson spent years listening to all the gripes about everything that Prodigy didn't have.

"People would say they wanted chat, or they wanted an off-line mail manager or an off-line manager for bulletin board messages. I got tired of telling them they had to go somewhere else for those things," Larson said.

In a way, Prodigy was a victim of its own success.

"Prodigy is very often people's first online experience and we were so focused on making it easy for everyone," said Larson. But after new Prodigy users grew into sophisticated Prodigy veterans, "they had what's called 'rising electronic expectations.' They wanted more features and they had to go to other services to get them."

In a flurry of activity this summer, Prodigy uncorked a trio of new products — Bulletin Board Manager, Email Connection and Chat — that will put the service on equal footing with its competitors and, in some cases move it a nose in front.

All of the products run under Windows and are launched separately from the main Prodigy program.

Just before the three products were released, Boardwatch visited Prodigy headquarters in White Plains, N.Y., to get a closer look at the products and to talk to the people who helped create them. Here's what we saw...

BULLETIN BOARD NOTE MANAGER

Prodigy's bulletin board area is a heavy traffic zone. As many as 75,000 new notes are posted every day to more than 850 topics. On the average day, more than 1.6 megabytes of notes are available to read.

And since Prodigy's early days, the boards have been a popular attraction. Before Prodigy made the boards a Plus service with a surcharge, some users spent huge amounts of time there.

"We actually had 15 people who spent between 50 and 100 hours a month on the boards," Larson said.

When Prodigy moved the boards to the fee section last year, there were predictable howls from the heavy users. In response, Prodigy promised to develop off-line tools.

At one point last winter, the service brought 15 heavy bulletin board users to New York and asked them what they wanted to see in a note manager.

"We found out a lot about how people use the boards," said Larson. "Some follow topics. They might go to, say, the motorcycle board and look up Harley-Davidson. Or from the Travel board to notes about England. But then people would say, no you've got it all wrong. They have a group of online friends and they want to follow what their friends are saying."

Bulletin Board Note Manager can generally slice and dice the notes any way you want them. It will find notes on topics, notes to you or notes from selected members.

In its default format, board topics are listed vertically in a

narrow window on the left side of the screen. The subjects and replies, linked to highlighted topic, appear in a window at the top of the screen. Below the subject window, the text of each note is displayed. Move the highlight bar to a new subject and the text pops up in a flash, without double-clicking required.

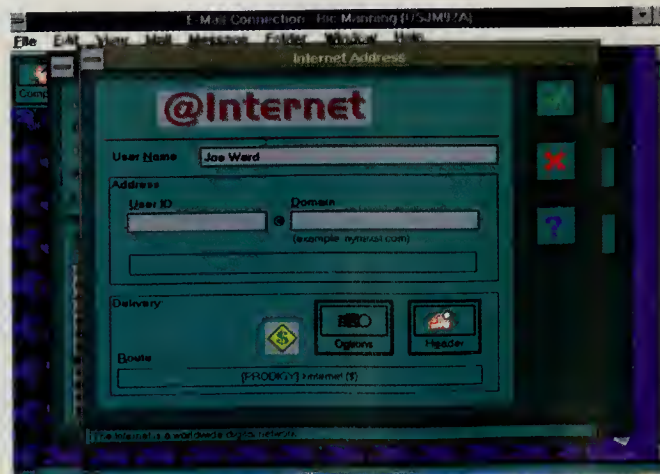
Users can select notes or groups of notes to download to their computers. The software compresses the text before sending to speed up delivery, then unpacks the data after it arrives. They can also customize the note display to show notes that are from or to a specific member or about a particular subject.

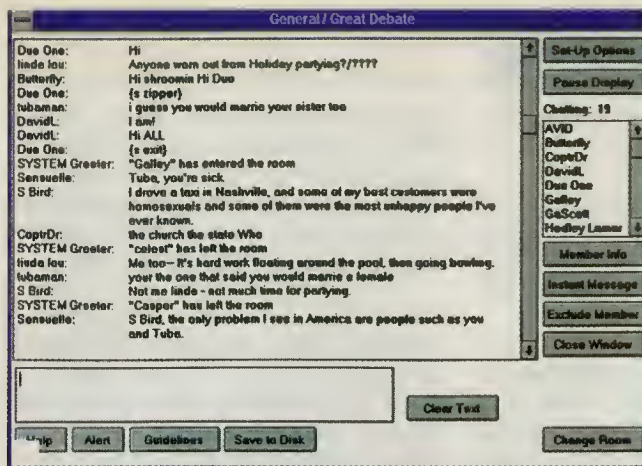
Bulletin board regulars who have favorite topics that they visit should see their connect fees reduced dramatically — or they can spend more time browsing new areas. Once the notes are captured, users can log off Prodigy and prepare their replies without worrying about the clock. The program will display a list of all pending uploads, let you make last-minute editing changes, then upload everything in a batch.

Bulletin Board Note Manager can be downloaded from Prodigy. It requires a PC with at least a 286 processor and Windows. Larson said DOS and Macintosh versions of Bulletin Board Manager went into development a few weeks before the Windows product was released.

E-MAIL CONNECTION

Prodigy's new e-mail manager may look familiar to some Windows users. E-Mail Connection for Prodigy is a customized version of an e-mail manager developed by ConnectSoft Inc. The program is tailored for Prodigy users, but it can also be used to manage mail accounts on other networks.





"We took a simpler approach with a simpler interface," said product manager Paul Gangi.

The screen has eight large buttons across the top — Compose, Forward, Reply, Search, Print, Delete and VCR used to more forward and backward through a stack of messages.

Icons along the side of the screen open an Inbox and Outbox, dial Prodigy, open folders and an address book. The address book is the central feature of E-Mail Connection for Prodigy. It pops up when the program is activated and it holds the mail addresses of all your correspondents, regardless of whether they are Prodigy subscribers or users of another network. In fact, they don't have to have an e-mail address at all. E-Mail Connection for Prodigy will send messages to fax machines, produce a snail-mail letter or send to a pager connected to the MobilComm pager network.

"We'll keep adding other networks with future releases," said Gangi.

The program will capture address from all incoming mail and it will let you create mailing lists that mix destinations. For example, you might have a list of family members with a different method for reaching each one.

Enter a new name in your address book and a window opens asking for the person's title, company, home and work phone numbers and any comments you want to record. A list of address types includes a dozen options, including AppleLink, MCI Mail, Fax and the Internet.

Choose Fax and the program asks for the phone number, an Area Code, if necessary, and whether you want to include a header. The faxes, postal letters and messages to outside networks are all forwarded through

capabilities, such as cut, copy and paste.

The file system in E-Mail Connection for Prodigy stores sent mail for later review and keeps discarded messages in a trash file until you empty it. The program also offers immediate or timed posting at specified times.

E-Mail Connection for Prodigy can be downloaded from Prodigy for \$14.95.

CHAT

In some ways, Prodigy's new Chat feature is like any other. Participants adopt nicknames, then try to keep up as the conversation goes hurtling past. But Prodigy has built in some nifty gadgets to help make the process easier to manage and more entertaining.

When you enter the Chat area, you pick among a few standard, built-in rooms, such as Computers, Parenting, Seniors, Veterans, News, Singles and Teen talk. ESPN will host the Sports discussion rooms and Prodigy says Homework Helper rooms staffed every evening during the school year.

Most of the action, however, seems to be in the rooms created by Prodigy members. Topic heading on one recent night included Big Beautiful Women, Gay Teens and Unfaithful Wives.

Member rooms can be open to drop-ins or private areas that require a password for entry. If you want to have a private conversation with a group of friends, just create your own room, select a password and share it with people you choose.

Once inside a Chat room, the participants' names appear in a scroll box in tone corner of the screen. Click on "Lost Girl" and you can immediately look up her Member Profile, if she has entered one. Click another button and you can shoot her an instant, private

Prodigy, which charges an extra fee for such services.

E-Mail Connection for Prodigy has another advantage over Prodigy's online mail editor. Messages created with the off-line software can be 10 times longer than those created online. Also, you can import files from most word processors and the program has standard Windows text-editing

message that pops up on here screen — even when she's outside the Chat area.

Other option buttons will exclude a particular member's posting from appearing on your screen or refuse instant messages from that person. You can also hit buttons to read the Chat guidelines, capture the conversation to disk or alert the Prodigy Police to any verbal shenanigans.

The Chat section is part of the Prodigy Plus area and it can be voracious time-eater. I stopped into a room called Let's Play Trivia for a quick peek and stayed for more than an hour. But I got at least \$3.60 worth of conversation.

To use the Chat feature, you have to upgrade Prodigy for Windows to version 1.1. The upgrade costs \$5.95 and takes about a half hour to download at 9,600 bps. The new version also is supposed to speed up photo downloads, but I didn't notice any great improvement.

CHATTER

A new soundtrack feature is adding a new dimension to Prodigy's business news and sports updates. Along with text and pictures, members can hear AP audio feeds — the same reports that radio stations use. Click on a Sound button and Prodigy starts downloading a WAV file. Although the files can take a couple of minutes to arrive, the software thoughtfully starts playback before the entire file has arrived.

Go to Member Services to get a list of current sound files that are available. One of my favorites from a recent list was the prank call to ABC's Peter Jennings during the O.J. Simpson chase from a man who said he was across the street from Simpson's home.

And check this. Prodigy now has canned laugh tracks. You can capture a sound file that will giggle while you read the jokes in the Punchline section. Is that creative multimedia, or what?

(Ric Manning writes about computers and technology for The Courier-Journal in Louisville, KY. His weekly column on consumer electronics is syndicated through the Gannett News Service. Ric reads his E-mail at ricman@iglou.com on the Internet, 72715,210 on CompuServe and USJM92A on Prodigy.)

COMPUSERVE UPDATES WINCIM, ADDS REDESIGNED SCREENS, SUPPORT FOR CD-ROM PRODUCT

by Ric Manning

CompuServe has updated WinCIM, but not everyone is happy about it.

Version 1.3, released in late June, includes a new Connect dialog box, a preference option to show or hide graphics and a new Browse Services Menu that shows more choices. And it supports enhanced graphic menus which CompuServe plans to deploy in the future.

Highlights of the new version are described in the file **CHG13.TXT** in the **CWINSUPPORT** section. Here's a summary of what it says:

- The "Show Graphic Menus" preference controls whether WinCIM will display the new enhanced menus that will appear in some services.
- The buttons on articles have been moved to the bottom of article windows.
- Support for multiple palettes has been added to graphic display dialogs.
- When articles are placed in the filing cabinet, WinCIM 1.3 uses the "title" in place of the "header" if no header exists.

• A fix made to the way WinCIM handles text in the conference window allows users to see the complete text of what has been sent.

• New support for the CompuServe CD include multiple recipients of messages and the ability to retrieve items "marked" from the CD.

CompuServe is offering the new version for download (**GO WCIMSOFT**). The \$10 charge for downloading includes a \$10 usage credit.

In the WinCIM Support Forum, several users complained that their

attempts to download the program were running into problems.

Some reported taking two to three hours to download the file at 14.4 kbps. Others said the file transfer bombed with less than 10 percent of the file left to go.

An obvious alternative would be to order the program on disk, but there's a rub there, too. Some users complained that the disks they received contained **WinCIM** version 1.2 rather than the new version. According to the support sysop, that's because the disk version of **WinCIM** 1.3 hasn't been released yet, only the download version. He didn't explain why CompuServe adopted such a curious policy.

PASS THE POPCORN

CompuServe is giving members an aisle seat at some of the summer's big movies. In June, the service put preview clips of two new films on its CD-ROM product. Then last month, the network began offering film clips to download.

The first offerings are from Walt Disney's animated feature "The Lion King," Warner Bros.' "Wyatt Earp," and "The Shadow" from Universal Pictures. The clips are in QuickTime format with stereo sound and can be viewed on a Mac or a Multimedia PC.

The eight clips from "The Lion King" include scenes called "Circle of Life,"

"Hyenas and Scar" and "Young Simba." Getting the files will require some patience. The smallest of the clips is 1.7 megabytes and takes about a half an hour to download at 9,600 bps. The largest is 3.4 megabytes.

The movie studios see CompuServe as a good vehicle for promoting their products. "Online services provide a form of immediacy and a global link that simply isn't available in any other medium," said Bob Lambert, vice president of new technology for Disney Pictures.

CompuServe says it won't leave the clips posted indefinitely. That may be an effort to enhance their value as collectibles, or maybe CompuServe just wants to recover its hard drive space.

All of the clips are in the Entertainment Drive Forum (**GO EDRIVE**). For information on downloading, get the file **QTWDOC.TXT** from the forum's Library 16.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Prodigy may have the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, and America Online can boast about carrying full-text versions of The New York Times, the San Jose Mercury-News and The Chicago Tribune, but now CompuServe subscribers can get full-text articles from 60 different newspapers — including the Atlanta, Chicago and San Jose papers.





Newspaper Archives is CompuServe's new link to the Dialog database of full-text articles. The newspaper files have long been available through CompuServe's **IQUEST** and Knowledge Index options. But the new access route (**GO NEWSARCHIVE**) is designed to work specifically with the CompuServe Information Manager.

Users can view the list of papers in a CIM window and click the one they want to search. A search box lets you search a story by headline, body or lead (that's newspaper jargon for the first two paragraphs).

The system also supports boolean search terms AND, OR and NOT to help narrow the search and the wild-card symbol (*) to expand a search term. For example, typing **UNIVERS*** will retrieve stories containing **UNIVERSE**, **UNIVERSAL** and **UNIVERSITY**.

Newspaper Archives is a premium service, so CompuServe's higher rates apply. The service also carries a surcharge of **\$1.50** for each full-text

article that you view or download. Unlike the pricey **IQUEST** option, which hits you for **\$9** for every search, Newspaper Archives only charges for full stories that you capture. However, you can get to the same database of newspapers for even less money using Dialog's Knowledge Index option.

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW . . .

The Computer Art Forum (**GO COMART**) has added a new section devoted to Favue Matisse, the image editor from Fauve Software that simulates natural effects such as charcoal, pastels, Japanese brushes, and calligraphy pens. A freeware grayscale version of the software is available for downloading. It's **MATISS.EXE** in Library 5, "Paint/Draw Programs."

Lanier's Inn & Lodging Forum (**GO INNFORUM**) has added information from *Elegant Small Hotels—A Connoisseur's Guide* and Lanier's All-Suite Hotel Guide. The *Elegant Small Hotels* guide describes more than 200 to-rated hotels in the U.S. The All-Suite Hotel Guide has more than 600 listings of hotels aimed at families and business travelers on extended stays. Still not sure there's a boom in online services? CompuServe recently reported the largest increase in revenue and earnings in the service's 25-year history. For the year ended April 30, 1994, CompuServe revenues were **\$429.9** million, up 36.3 percent. Pre-tax earnings hit **\$102.3** million, up 38.2 percent. So hey, fellas, how about a rate cut?

(Business writer and columnist Ric Manning reports on computers and technology for The Courier-Journal in Louisville, KY. "Home Tech," his weekly column on computers and consumer electronics, is distributed by the Gannett News Service. Ric reads his E-mail at ricman@iglou.com on the Internet, 72715,210 on CompuServe and USJM92A on Prodigy.)

LIST OF NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

Here's the list of papers that are available through News Archive and the date when the collection was started:

NEWS ARCHIVE	DATE
(Akron) Beacon Journal	1/89
(Albany) Knickerbocker News	3/86
Times Union	3/86
(Allentown) Morning Call	1/90
Anchorage Daily News	1/89
Atlanta Constitution	1/89
Atlanta Journal	1/89
(Baltimore) Sun	9/90
Boston Globe	1/80
Buffalo News	1/90
Charlotte Observer	1/89
Chicago Tribune	5/88
Christian Science Monitor	1/89
Cincinnati Post, Kentucky Pos	4/90
(Cleveland) Plain Dealer	8/91
(Columbia) State	12/87
Columbus Dispatch	1/88
Dayton Daily News	10/90
(Denver) Rocky Mountain News	6/89
Detroit Free Press	1/87
Financial Times	12/86
(Fort Lauderdale) Sun-Sentinel	1/88
Fresno Bee	1/90
Houston Post	1/88
Lexington Herald-Leader	1/90
(London) Independent	10/88
(London) Times/Sunday Times	6/88
(Los Angeles) Daily News	1/89
Los Angeles Times	1/85
(Madison) Capital Times	1/90
(Madison) Wisconsin State Journal	1/90
(Memphis) Commercial Appeal	1/90
Miami Herald	1/83
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune	1/89
(New Jersey) Record	1/89
(New Orleans) Times-Picayune	1/89
New York Newsday Newsday	1/87
(Norfolk) Ledger-Star	1/90
(Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot	1/90
Orlando Sentinel	1/88
Palm Beach Post	1/89
Philadelphia Daily News	1/83
Philadelphia Inquirer	1/83
(Phoenix) Arizona Business Gazette	1/88
(Phoenix) Arizona Republic	1/88
(Phoenix) Arizona Republic	1/88
Phoenix Gazette, Phoenix Gazette	1/88
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	6/90
Pittsburgh Press	6/90
(Portland) Oregonian	1/89
Richmond News Leader	1/89
Richmond Times-Dispatch	1/89
Sacramento Bee	1/88
Saint Paul Pioneer Press	4/88
St. Louis Post-Dispatch	1/88
St. Petersburg Times	1/89
San Francisco Chronicle	1/88
San Francisco Examiner	1/90
San Jose Mercury News	6/85
Seattle Post-Intelligencer	1/90
Seattle Times	1/89
USA Today	1/88
Washington Post	4/83
Washington Times	1/89
Wichita Eagle	1/90

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Free Report on how to go from \$0 to \$3,000 per month in BBS income in as little as 90 days!

This valuable report reveals money making information on how to operate a BBS for profit. It outlines powerful marketing secrets including unique ways of finding new subscribers and how to get them to pay you top dollar; guaranteed ways to generate other revenue plus the secrets to getting free publicity and being able to accept credit card payments; plus much more. Limited quantity.

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Prepared by the publishers of the book - *How To Successfully Run A BBS For Profit.*

LOOKING INTO GENIE



by Lenny Bailes

This month at GENIE has been slightly aggravating for those members who use it as an electronic mail drop (as opposed to a source of Round Table conversation or gaming action). For three consecutive weekends, the mail page was either down or broken. Users attempting to pick up mail were unceremoniously bounced off the system. Although GENIE's front page banner acknowledged several early morning periods when the mail service would be down, there was no warning or acknowledgment of the mail problems that recurred during prime time. For an information service trying to compete with CompuServe and America Online, this was not an impressive performance.

GENIE LiveWire (the monthly hypertext magazine) has added a new, useful feature called NetSearch. NetSearch encapsulates a list of new and controversial discussion topics across the GENIE system, with pointers to RoundTables and relevant files to download from each RT. GENIE has also established a new user Practice Roundtable. New members can use the Practice RT to gain skill in participating in conference chat, reading and writing messages, or downloading files. Real-Time GENIE classes are offered in sending mail, navigating the system, speech synthesizer help, basics of chat, and how to access software libraries.

Although GENIE doesn't have the social dynamics of an online service like the Well (which holds regular monthly parties in several different cities), GENIE users exhibit a more gregarious

social focus than patrons of CompuServe (the businessman's choice). This month's LiveWire features an account of AtlantaFest, a GEttogether, held in May 1994. AtlantaFest was the second annual convention to gather GENIE users from all over the country and pack them into the same hotel for a weekend. The LiveWire coverage of the event suggests a certain stolid, middle-class nerdiness — attendees gathered around laptop computers, passing around photo albums (with a women's sidetrip to a male strip-club!). Early gatherings sponsored by the Well had a similar nerdy flavor. But after two or three years of chatting in a single room and kibitzing keyboards, Well gatherings diversified into restaurant crawls, impromptu musical concerts, cyber-salons and picnics. AtlantaFest may be the start of a cohesive GENIE socialization process. Where America Online is known for gatherings in smoke-filled rock 'n' roll clubs, and the Well for its various excursions by small local ingroups, GENIE may eventually develop its own unique social ambiance.

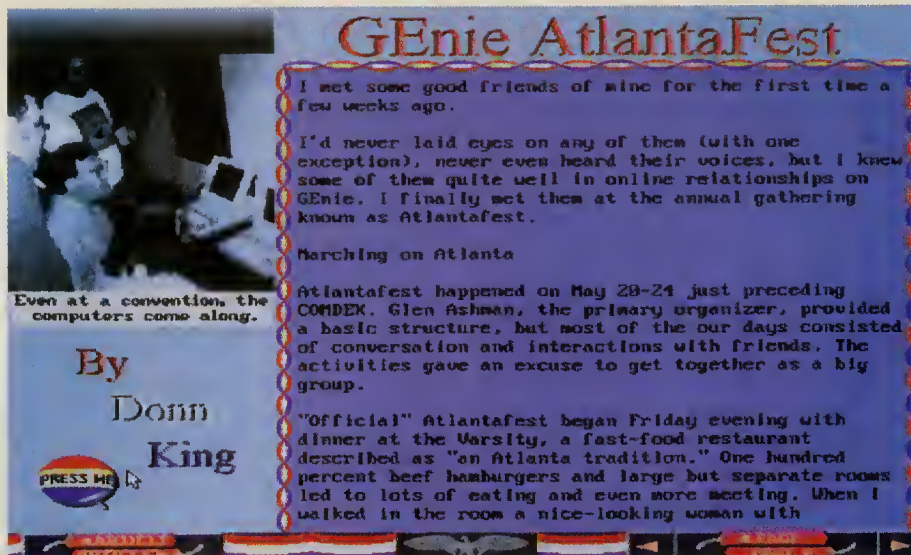
displayed on the right. While you're answering questions, the system throws out bad puns and clues related to the question, and you can also chat with the other participants. When I was 10 years old and watched various quiz shows on TV, I remember thinking that the questions thrown at contestants were laughable. I'd win a million dollars, if only they'd put my beaming face in front of the cameras. But either I've gotten slower, or everybody else has smartened up a lot in the Electronic Age. During my brief trial of this GENIE feature I was low scorer. I stalled and bluffed wildly while others chatted merrily and successfully fielded each question. This implementation of Trivia is part of a national interactive network. You're competing against not just other GENIE users, but thousands of people with nothing better to do than hang out in bars, hotels, and restaurants to identify bit-players in Casablanca or National League pennant winners. In addition to regular ongoing games, there are also specialized competitions in sports, music and something called "Nightside — an adults-only game." High scorers

GENIE's LiveWire - Hypertext Monthly Magazine adds new NetSearch feature

This month marks the debut of GENIE's NTN Trivia graphic front-end. Users can now while away hours answering questions, chatting, and competing online with other contestants for point sand prizes. Questions, multiple choice answers and hints get displayed in windows along the left side of the screen, while point stats, game scores and rankings are

are eligible to win prizes ranging from t-shirts and cassette players up to color TVs, CamCorders and laser printers.

Other new RTs this month include Newton (Page 1540): a forum for users of Apple's pen-based pocket-computer. One category on the Newton bulletin board is dedicated to PocketCall, a Newton communications program.



LiveWire article on AtlantaFest details second annual gathering of GEnie users from all over the country

The RT software library contains a number of shareware programs, including one for recording voice that turns the palmtop into a Startrek "tricorder." For paperback junkies, the library has the text of 23 Sherlock Holmes adventures by A. Conan Doyle. If more publishers were willing to provide the electronic text for their books, this could start quite a useful trend for reviewers and critics.

The newly opened Disney RT features a bulletin board where users can comment and ask questions concerning Disney films, cartoons, music, books, and the various Disney amusement parks in the United States, France and Japan. The software library contains a number of photographic GIFs with

explicit instructions not to upload or distribute to other sources. CTV, the Canadian Television network has opened a roundtable that provides access for GEnie users to the executives and programmers of Canada's largest private broadcast network (Page 1226).

GEnie's Internet RoundTable recently underwent an extensive overhaul and remodeling. Although you still can't use GEnie to directly access USEnet, or Gopher/FTP files, the Roundtable now offers extensive discussions and advice on how to take advantage an Internet provider that does offer these features. Sections on World Wide Web, the use of Archie, Veronica, etc., now provide good background information

for would-be Net Surfers. There are also a series of compilation/ digest topics from selected USEnet newsgroups.

August is the month when GEnie features its Hot Summer Nights; a series of Roundtable Chats, some of which are free of connect charges. The Writer's Ink Forum features regular Sunday "koffee klutches," plus weekly sessions for screen writers, authors of children's fiction, and "RoguePoets." The OS/2 RT, this month featured an online session with Dr. Timothy Sipples, the author of a widely circulated series of OS/2 FAQ sheets. GEnie's Game Design RT now covers multimedia entertainment, including topics on authoring tools and designing educational packages.

GEnie's Space and Science RT (Page 460) was almost as quick as the Internet to come up with pictures of the Jupiter/Shoemaker-Levy comet space collision. I downloaded the photo accompanying this month's column just one day after the historic collision on July 16. The picture is actually one frame captured from an



MPEG animation that depicts the comet's approach and several fragments exploding into the Gas Giant's swirling atmosphere. (Look for SL9CRASH.MPG, File 5004 in the Space RT Library.)

You can join GEnie, waive the first month's \$8.95 subscription fee and receive 10 hours of free usage time by dialing 1-800-638- 8369 (1-800-387-8330 in Canada). At the connect message, type HHH. at the U#= prompt, enter JOINGENIE and press RETURN. At the Offer Code prompt, enter "MKD524."

[Lenny Bailes is a PC consultant, writer and teacher living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a contributing editor for Microtimes, a California computing magazine, and co-author of Byte's DOS Programmer's Cookbook.]



GEnie's NTN Trivia GUI

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE TOP 10 READERS' CHOICE BBSs

by Brian Gallagher

FIRST PLACE - SOFTWARE CREATIONS - (508) 368-7139

For the second consecutive year, taking first place honors in the Boardwatch Magazine Readers' Choice Top 100 BBS contest is Dan Linton's Software Creations (508)368-7139. With 2090 votes, this PCBoard system has garnered a following from across the globe and currently boasts an average of 525 new callers every day and 150,000 users. Set up on over 100 computers with 10 gigabytes of files, running on a Novell LAN the system has 130 lines, with 30 of those 28.8 kbps and all but two of the modems being manufactured by U.S.Robotics.

The renown Clinton Massachusetts file board is accessible through an international Sprint Net X-25 connection and has a 486/66 running as a UNIX box processing e-mail and approximately 300 newsgroups. The newsgroups the board carries are geared towards education, games, programming, entertainment and other specialized groups requested by the corporate subscribers. Surprisingly, there are more files downloaded from the corporate file areas than on the main system; on the main system, however, the most popular downloaded files belong to Apogee Software.

Linton acquired an associates degree in Computer Technology and Computer Software, (hardware and software), in 1978 graduating with honors. For the next 15 years he worked for PRIME Computers, and a subsidiary of PRIME before he left to begin work on Software Creations late in 1989.

The board opened for business with one line, a 20 MB hard drive and a 2400 baud modem when the ball hit the ground in New York City on new year's day January 1, 1990. Today, with nine employees, the board is known as the "Home of the Authors," Linton said, adding Apogee Software, a leading game producer, the Coriolis Group, known for computer books geared towards developers and programmers, Blackledge Publishing, responsible for a series of BBS books including "TBBS Tips, Traps

and Techniques" with other books on other software platforms in the works, Id software, responsible for the popular computer game "Doom," and Borland Software among others, all call the system home. Callers can purchase a slew of registered shareware software programs online with real-time credit card processing done on their homespun software.



Dan Linton of Software Creations

Not surprisingly Linton's favorite part of the system are the company forums. "When you bring a new company online," he said, "they have no idea what an online service can do for them." What he offers companies is very similar to their own BBS, with Software Creations supplying them a bulletin menu, Internet addresses and interfaces along with e-mail and newsgroups, file areas, news flashes and online stores. Linton attributes the absence of adult files - all adult files (never had them never will) to enhancing the attractiveness of his system to businesses.

This fall Linton is looking to add multiplayer games across their X-25 network and to attract still more entertainment software/shareware authors to his system. In addition, the eight employees are working on making full Internet access available to subscribers including: ftp, telnet, ping, archie, gopher and the rest as well as incorporating the latest version of RIP graphics all projected to be available this fall.

Another big project in the works is the installation of a 500 CD ROM juke box. His programmers are busy working on the custom software to make this 200+

gigabyte drive accessible in a reasonable amount of time. By caching the most popular files on a 2.5 gigabyte hard drive, Linton and his team hope to keep access times to a minimum.

All inclusive subscriptions can be had for \$40 for 6 months access with 1 hour per day, \$55 per year for 1 hour per day, \$65 per year for 1 1/2 hours per day and \$85 per year for 2 hours per day. The system imposes no limits on the number of files or bytes a subscriber may download, and there will be no additional costs to users when full Internet access becomes available.

Dan Linton, Software Creations, 26 Harris Street, Clinton, MA 01510; (508)368-8654 voice; (508)368-7139 BBS.

SECOND PLACE - EXEC - PC (414) 789-4360

The mammoth EXEC-PC, running 280 modem lines with 30 newly added direct Internet connections, at execpc.com, comes in second place, with 1660 votes in this year's Readers' Choice Contest. The board runs on sysop Bob Mahoney's own software creation and first opened for business with one line in November of 1983. "That was exciting, I still remember the smell of it," Mahoney said of the first call EXEC-PC ever received - it was from Madison, Wisconsin at 4:00 a.m. Thanksgiving morning.

By 1988 the board was running 60 lines, and in 1992, with himself, his wife Tracey and their dog Jessie at the controls, 170 lines with a hearty 8,000 customers. Getting the board to this point didn't come without its sacrifices, however. "it was like working three full time jobs," Mahoney said. "I started calculating how many hours I needed to sleep to stay alive, subtracted that from the week - and the rest of the time was work time." Working EQUALLY hard, he adds emphatically are the shareware authors who are at the heart of the BBS industry in the first place.

The system is set up on a 100 megabit per second fiber optic LAN backbone, with a smattering of different brands and speeds of modems, from Compucom 2400 baud to V.Everything U.S.Robotics



Left to right: Greg Ryan, Curt Shambeau, Bob Mahoney, Tracey Mahoney

- with heavy expansion moving towards the 28.8 kbps speeds. In addition, there are 96 CD ROMs online, five file server machines, a brand new SUN Spark Server 1000, handling their Internet connection, and four "demon tasker" machines that among other things assist the Hyperscan search engine, Mahoney's self-described "crowning achievement in programming," able to search 300,000 files in a couple of milliseconds. Even though the Mahoney's moved to a larger house with a 2,700 square foot lower level (where the board would be housed) in 1989, the

so fascinating he wanted to share the technology with his classmates; so he built a small computer with flashing lights to demonstrate the process and took it to school where it was received with little enthusiasm. "I found it was a very personal pursuit," he said, "because I brought my computer to school and nobody cared."

Undaunted by other's apathy, he read a "revolutionary" Life magazine article about the IBM 360 when he was 11 years old. He found the story so enthralling he ended up hanging it on his bedroom wall. In his early teens, a friend of his father's, an engineer for the heavy equipment manufacturer A.O. Smith, took him to a manufacturing plant where a woven-core RAM card mesmerized him, and he received a punch card with the alphabet typed on it. This excursion pushed

Mahoney "over the edge" and he fell for computers whole heartedly.

Mahoney graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a bachelor's in Computer Science, and proceeded to get an MBA from the University of Milwaukee, which he said proved valuable in running the BBS. He went to work for Automatic Data Processing Network Services, assisting customers with business applications related to computers. Three years later he was again working on the computer end of things, this time for a large appraisal firm.

He purchased his first IBM PC in 1982 with his life's savings against the advice of his superiors at work. Soon he convinced the skeptics at his job that PCs really were the way things were going to go and soon had the company switching from mainframes to PCs. While doing some consulting work for Shell Oil, the energy conglomerate bought him another PC, a "whopping" 30 MB hard drive and a 1200 baud modem. With the 700+ business files he had amassed, all of the hardware pieces thanks to Shell and his natural ambition and talent for digital logic, EXEC-PC was a foregone conclusion.

The system takes 6,000 calls a day with over 200 new callers everyday, or 73,000 new callers every year. EXEC-PC has over 30,000 paid subscribers and 75 gigs of the latest files, including adult files, from around the globe. The board boasts two CompuServe X-25s, a Global Access X-25, and two ISDN lines (414)343-2177 with typical download speeds of 5400 characters per second.

These days Mahoney finds a welcome relief from computer screens and screeching modems with the cannon-like kick of a .44 magnum or behind the wheel of one of his sports/racing cars - a show winning 1967 Shelby GT 500, a 1970 Boss 302 mustang, or his 1991 Nissan 300 ZX twin turbo with a racing computer chip bumping the horsepower by 100 to 400 - a real screamer he assures. Mahoney races the cars in a local hobby club about once every three weeks.

The hard working Mahoney hired help in 1993 so he could find the time to enjoy these other activities. His new staff consists of: Curt Shambeau, hardware guru, who replaced over **\$100,000** of equipment in 1993, saving only the hard drives and power supplies in the nearly **300** computers that make it all work; Greg Ryan, author of RyBBS, who took the load of writing all the custom software off of Mahoney's shoulders, Brandon Ibach and Michael Mittelstadt who work with the Internet and take care of any peripheral duties.

Subscriptions are **\$75** per year for full access or **\$25** for 3 months, including 10 hours of Internet access per week. For those wanting unlimited Internet access and SLIP/PPP, it can be had for an additional **\$20/month**. Bob Mahoney, EXEC-PC, 2105 S. 170th Street, New Berlin, WI 53151; (414)789-4200 voice; (414)789-4360BBS.



Mahoney on the track

"incredible" growth he has experienced over the last three years - particularly the only half over and "explosive" 1994, have prompted them to purchase an 8,000 square foot office building at the cost of \$300,000. Conveniently enough he leased the other half of the building to an Internet provider.

Mahoney achieved his significant sysop status by what would appear to be destiny. When he was eight years old, his father bought him two "wonder years" books, titled "The Thinking Machine," by John Pfeiffer and "ABC's of Computers," by Allan Lytel, detailing the "and/or" digital logic which computers are based on. He found them

A NEW CAT'S THROUGH THE

The king of the jungle has done it again: Wildcat! 4 by Mustang Software. By listening to you, our valued customers, Wildcat! has become The World's Most Popular BBS Software™. Now, we've given

Wildcat! 4



Wildcat! even more to roar about with more than 250 new features and enhancements. See for yourself why Wildcat! has become the BBS product everyone's talking about. And learn about the new features that our competitors won't have for months to come.

POWERFUL NEW FEATURES

GIF Thumbnailer. Before downloading multiple .GIF files, your callers can download a thumbnail preview, which allows them to get a true idea of what the .GIFs contain without relying on the description.

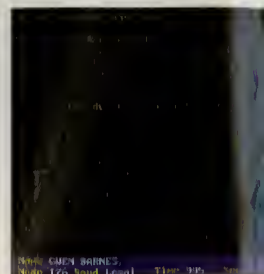


Online Spell Checker. Your callers will appreciate the ability to spell check their text before saving their message. We've also added search and replace, block cut and paste, and a host of

other new word processing features, which makes this the most powerful online full screen editor in the industry.

Online Scrollback and Capture. Now, Wildcat! Sysops can scroll back through the user's activity while they're online, without interrupting the caller. You can also turn on a screen capture file, which will record the entire session to disk.

Powerful and Fun Chat System. Your callers will enjoy Wildcat's entirely new Chat system, which features public and private channels, sysop-definable action words, and even moderated channels. We've also added goodies like multilingual support, profanity filter, alias names, squelching, and a whole lot more.



PROWLING ONLINE JUNGLE.

Tame Wildcat! to Your Specific Needs. Wildcat! Sysops will be able to customize Wildcat! by running any wcCODE application. Available as an option, wcCODE is our new Custom Online Development Engine that's an easy to use, Basic-like programming language that gives you access to Wildcat!'s internal structures and commands. These applications run directly from Wildcat! 4 without using a Door interface.



Free Form Menu Structure. For the first time, Sysops can create hundreds of menus and place any Wildcat! feature or wcCODE

application on any menu, in any order. You can create simple, time-saving shortcuts like Read All Un-Read Personal Mail as one menu choice or Download ALLFILES.ZIP right from the main menu. And making these menus is a breeze with our new MAKEMENU utility, included with every Wildcat! 4.

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THIRD PLACE - GLIB (703) 578-4104



**Jon Larimore of GLIB -
Gay & Lesbian Information
Bureau**

A Top 10 contender in Boardwatch Magazine's Top 100 BBS Readers' Choice Contest since its inception, Jon Larimore's Arlington, Virginia bulletin board GLIB, running TBBS software keeps climbing higher in the ratings as it places third with **595** votes in this years contest.

The Washington D.C. area board, the Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau, is a non-profit 501 c(3) communications system predominantly serving but not restricted to, the Gay and Lesbian community. Larimore, an electrical engineer, who works as the technical director of the audio visual division for the National Geographic Society, opened the service May 1, 1986, making it one of the older boards around. Today the board has 23 lines, all 14.4 kbps and runs on a 486/50 machine on a EISA platform with 2 gigabytes of storage. The reason Larimore chose TBBS in the first place was the ability to keep a BBS running on just one machine. The latest, greatest addition to the system is a Planet Connect satellite feed, which, with all of the data that is coming in through the link, is moving Larimore to set his system up on a Novell Lan to help manage all of the information from the satellite.

The most popular feature of the system is chat, "by far," Larimore said, with the adult shareware game, "The Wildside"

coming in a close second. The "mugshotz" area contains several hundred .gif images of users and it is a common practice for those in the chat or gaming areas to go to mugshotz and see who it is they are interacting with. The system has two gigabytes of files online, (PCs are the most popular), and is a supporting member of the Association of Shareware Professionals.

For those experiencing instances of sexual discrimination, GLIB offers a place for gays to document the occurrences with the Human Rights Campaign Fund, by sending e-mail to doc.disc@glib.org - for documenting discrimination. The system also has several publications and newsletters addressing concerns of the gay community including: Treatment Issue: Gay Men's Health Crisis, The Body Positive, John James' newsletter, "AIDS Treatment News," as well as a database of gay and lesbian community support organizations and the ability for organizations to add their name to the database.

GayCom, a gay network comprising 21 BBSs is also available, as is the Upper Westside Memorial, an ancillary organization which collects and distributes software and hardware to community groups in need. The board has several public terminals in the Washington D.C. area including one in "Lambda Rising," a gay book store, "Lammas," a women's bookstore, and the gay bar "Lost and Found."

People are encouraged to use handles on the system but they must register their real names with GLIB. Membership information is confidential and will not be divulged to anyone for any reason. For those wishing to register, in the GLIB Visitors Reception Room there is a complete file of information about the service and a "Fax On Demand" service, (703)379-4568, which will fax an application form to your machine that can be faxed back for quick validation. Completed application forms are required for all those wishing to become members and voice validation is not accepted.

Memberships are free to all adults 18 years of age or older who can show financial support of or membership in any non-profit community organization, or who wish to make a contribution to CESF (Community Educational Services Foundation), the parent company which sponsors GLIB. Both CESF and GLIB are run entirely by volunteers with no paid employees.

The system currently has **1,500** members with approximately two thirds contributing \$60 per year or more, the minimum required contribution. All members receive Internet e-mail addresses and full access to all the services GLIB has to offer.

Larimore recommends long distance callers use Global Access, a discount long distance service, to reach the system and save on long distance charges. For more information about Global Access, call (800)377-3282. GLIB, Jon Larimore, P.O.Box 636, Arlington, VA 22216-0636; (703)379-4568 voice; (703)578-4542 BBS.

FOURTH PLACE - MONTEREY GAMING SYSTEM (408) 655-5555



**David and Lisa Janakes of
Monterey Gaming System**

Breaking into the top 10 of the top 100 for the first time this year in fourth place with **467** votes is Monterey Gaming Systems, (408)655-5555, located in Monterey, California. The 32 line board, all 14.4kbps Supra modems, runs on custom software developed by the board's master programmer, David Janakes. Chief sysop for this chat and game playing board is his wife Lisa, who takes care of everything but the hardware, David said.

The board first opened January 1, 1992 with two lines and quickly grew to where it is today. The system runs on a single 486/66, with a separate machine doing e-mail runs and calling the main system - just like a regular user, to drop off its haul. Unique to many BBSs, Janakes offers free e-mail, both receiving and sending, to anyone who

wants it - for as long as they want, with out there every being a charge for it.

It doesn't cost him that much more to provide free e-mail to all, he said and it serves as a great marketing tool. The board has **1,400** paid subscribers and **2,800** callers - apparently he is doing something right.

A unique feature of the system, or the lack thereof, is the absence of any files - nada, zero, zip - not one little megabyte. "We didn't want to get into competition with other BBSs," Janakes said. Every so often they query users to see if they would like them to add a file area to the system and everytime they are answered with a resounding and nearly unanimous - NO!

The reason for so staunch and stolid a reply is the users don't want the lines to be tied up downloading, when they could be chatting, Janakes explains, "Ninety percent of our users spend 90 percent of their time in conferences." The board has five major chat areas labeled after the first five letters of the Greek alphabet - alpha, beta, gamma, delta and epsilon.

The alpha conference is a "G" rated general conference with people from six to 80 years old. The Beta channel is for teens with only those 17 years old and younger and is also G rated. The Gamma area is an anonymous chat area, where nobody knows who is saying what; delta conference is the "hot chat" area and Epsilon conferences are user owned and operated chat rooms where the "owner," (a user who pays a \$5 monthly fee to purchase the room), sets the rules and dictates the participants.

Oddly enough, the Monterey Gaming System grew out of a text based game titled "Timeslip I." The game was the brain child of Janakes who completed the program in 1991, but by the time he was ready to release it, he thought the new breed of high resolution graphic games surpassed his effort, except that is, in the world of bulletin boards - so he wrote the software package around the game to support it. He describes Timeslip I as being along the lines of the Infocom adventure game.

The game is a favorite of the **30** games online, but the bread and butter and draw of this board is, has been and will be chat. The board logs **650** to **700** calls everyday and has a tiered subscription structure. For those who get on and off line in a hurry, full access can be had for 50 cents an hour for as long as they care

to stay online. For what is known as a level "e" subscription, callers receive **90** minutes per day of access for **\$10** per month. A level "f" subscription is 180 minutes per day for **\$20** per month, and the level "g" package offers unlimited access for **\$40** per month.

David and Lisa Janakes, Monterey Gaming Systems, P.O.Box 2153, Monterey, CA 93942; **(408)655-5525** voice; **(408)655-5515** fax; **(408)655-5555** BBS.

FIFTH PLACE - BLUE RIDGE EXPRESS (804) 790-1675

Breaking into the top 10 for the first time this year, after just missing it last year, is Webb Blackman's Blue Ridge Express, **(804)790-1675**, in Chesterfield Virginia, with **460** votes running RBBS shareware software. With the goal of avoiding the busy signal, Blackman, a chemical engineer for Allied Signal, opened the Express in April 1986 with four lines.

In 1982 Blackman bought a PC computer "just because it was something different," he said, "It was a novelty." He called CompuServe with his new toy and was impressed by the noted industry personas who then frequented there - Peter Norton and Jeff Garber - author of Crosstalk to name a few. The only problem he had with CompuServe was the monthly credit card bill, which eventually pushed him into the local BBS scene.

As Blackman soon found out, dialing local BBSs had its drawbacks too, as he was daunted by busy signal after busy signal when trying to connect. These two factors contributed to Blackman starting his own BBS, and his policy of adding additional lines whenever it seemed the last modem was busy 30 percent or 40 percent of the time. Today, with 36 lines, (20 - V.32 bis Hayes Optima 14.4 kbps modems and 16 - 2400 baud Hayes smart modems), it is the RBBS software that can't expand any further.

This substantial limitation, and the fact RBBS doesn't support chat, has Blackman looking for a new software package; at **36** lines for nearly three years now, that last modem is lighting up **50** percent to **60** percent of the time during the peak 8:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m. hours. Bringing his board up to par, Blackman plans on switching to PC Board software, (he likes the file management capabilities), sometime

this fall and to be running 48 lines by the new year.

There are five gigs of files online, including the latest ASP selections as the board is a member of the organization, giving callers over **25,000** titles to choose from. There are no hard-core pornographic files on the system, and all uploads are screened for such. In addition, any callers uploading commercial software, can be assured they will not be allowed access to the system in the future - ever.

The board is set up in a compact and unique arrangement with a 486/66 working as the main file server connected to three Alloy expansion boxes, (each contains a single interface card), inside of which are 12 PC slave cards. The slave cards are essentially disk-less work stations with two serial ports, one for a modem and another for a monitor if so desired. All of this is connected to two other workstations via a Novell LAN.

Local e-mail is the most popular feature of the board, and it resides in 54 sub boards including: viruses, scouting, the popular computer game DOOM, 12-step - a private area for recovering addicts (callers need only leave a message to the sysop to be granted access), soap box, a few shareware authors including William Soleau, a shareware game author and others. With 1,000+ daily callers, message traffic on this system is substantial. and the guidelines to this growing BBS are rather simple, callers may only use their real names and flaming is not allowed.

The phone bill for the board runs between **\$900** to **\$1,000** every month, including four forwarded lines giving callers in normally long distance areas of Richmond access to the board for 15 cents. Striving to keep busy signals to a minimum has netted the Express **2,500** subscribers who pay **\$20** to be able download and post to their hearts desire. For those not interested in subscribing right away, Blackman allows all callers 30 minutes of free time everyday for as long as they wish. The free offer includes access to all the message bases, and a selection of files that he feels every BBSer should have, (i.e. compression and virus scanning utilities and the like).

Webb Blackman, Blue Ridge Express, P.O.Box 34446, Richmond, VA 23234; **(804)790-1007** voice; **(804)790-1675** - 2400 baud BBS; **(804)790-9600** - 14.4 kbps BBS.

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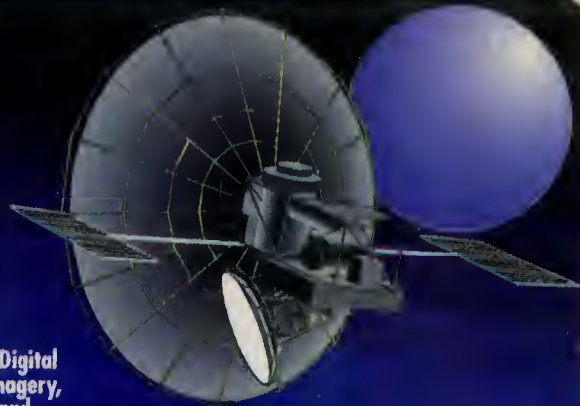
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SIXTH PLACE - DEEP COVE BBS (604) 536-5885

Like the tortoise, the 33 line Deep Cove BBS, (604)536-5885, of White Rock, British Columbia, is a sure and steady mover, coming from 38 in 1992's Readers' Choice Contest, to 12 in last year's contest to place sixth this year, with **434** votes.

Sysop Wayne Duvall opened the board in 1985 with one line on a Commodore 64, switched to an Amiga platform for a couple of years and today runs eSoft's TBBS on a Novell network with six machines, (one UNIX box). The board, which Duvall began because he found many BBSs in his area to be "silly," has traditionally been known as a file board, with over **50,000** files including well stocked Windows, .gif images (no adult), Amiga, DOS, OS/2, and Macintosh support areas, is moving in a new direction with the installation of a 56 Kb leased line for Internet access earlier this year.

"The Internet," Duvall said, "is the primary reason that people are coming to almost all the bulletin boards in this area. An awful lot of people are using the World Wide Web...it seems to be catching on faster than anything else." The board is telnetable: deepcove.com, and carries 2,500 newsgroups. In addition the board carries FidoNet, RaceNet, and SafeNet.

Another draw to the system is the "sometimes popular" chat. Carol Hartnett, co-sysop for the Cove since 1988 said, every Wednesday night a specific topic is chosen and it's a chat night from there on. In addition to Hartnett, Deep Cove has no less than 12 volunteers who assist in making this system shine, as Duvall, who has a Ph.D. in environmental sciences, still works full

time as an environmental consultant, specializing in environmental impact assesment as it relates to oil and gas development. His job, he said, is to promote economic growth for region in a way that preserves the environment.

For years, Duvall's chief hobby was working on an automobile race track - waving flags, pulling drivers from burning cars and associated duties. After 17 years of doing this, he found his feet weren't as fast as they used to be, so he went looking for a new hobby and ended up in the BBS realm where he has remained happy until now.

A new rate increase proposed by BC Telephone has Duvall looking over his shoulder and maybe over the border. By rearranging the classification and number of "measured" telephone lines allowed, the communications company is likely to raise the Cove's monthly telephone bill some 220 percent. The rate increase Duvall said are, "absolutely ludicrous - it singles out operators of systems (BBSs)." If the increase takes effect Duval said he will have no choice but to pass the increase onto his callers, adding, "Something that should become more available will become less available."

With **33** lines, mostly ZyXEL 14.4 kbps and 19.2 kbps modems, set up on six machines, (one is a UNIX box), running on a Novell network - moving the board two miles south to the United States side of the border would be quite a chore, but it wouldn't be impossible. After all, he did move the system once before from Deep Cove to White Rock, BC Telephone - are you listening?

Subscription rates are **\$75** per year for 90 minutes of access per day, 4 MB of downloads, unlimited e-mail, chat, and newsgroups. For **\$125** per year, subscribers receive 240 minutes of daily access and have unlimited downloads in addition to e-mail, chat and newsgroups. For those wanting interactive Internet access, (i.e. ftp, telnet, gopher, archie, etc.), charges

range from **17** cents to **30** cents per hour.

Wayne Duvall, Deep Cove BBS, #5 15273 24th Avenue, White Rock, B.C. Canada V4A 2H9; (604)536-5855 voice; (604)536-5885 - 2400 baud BBS; (604)536-5889 9600+ BBS.

SEVENTH PLACE - ALPHAONE ONLINE (708) 827-3623

Open since March of 1990 and placing 36th in last year's competition, the upstart AlphaOne Online makes a big



**Gloria La Hay (left) and Toby
Schneider**

leap this year to number seven in the 1994 edition of Boardwatch Magazine's Top 100 BBSs Readers' Choice contest. The driving force behind this 18 line TBBS "board on the move" are co-sysops Toby Schneider, and Gloria La Hay.

Schneider first got into computers while working as a human resources management consultant in 1984. In 1987 an article about EXEC-PC prompted her to call the board, where she learned about other boards in her area. After two years of calling local BBSs it became apparent that if she was going to find everything she wanted on one BBS, "...files, messages, chat and good games together," she was going to have to start her own.

This sentiment was shared by La Hay - who Schneider met through a local BBS in 1988. La Hay, was pretty much into computers right from the start. The only female in her 1972 high school data processing class, La Hay graduated from Harper Community College in Chicago with an associates degree in Computer Science, has worked as an AS400 programmer/analyst and is now a senior analyst for an audio/visual



Wayne Duval of Deep Cove (far left) and co-sysops

company geared largely towards education.

With shared interests and a shared goal, the pair decided to set up their own BBS. La Hay, who is a collector and fan of shareware games, downloaded the shareware software TAG BBS and their first experience as sysops became a reality, however, La Hay cautions, "Those shareware (BBS) programs are not for the faint hearted."

La Hay does most of the file maintenance and programming, while Schneider handles the menu writing and hardware. Setting up BBSs for businesses has been a growing sidelight for the pair; since August of 1992 they have installed over **25** systems, most of them TBBS and Major BBS. They have been doing so well in fact that Schneider quit her day job last August and she couldn't be happier. "I love setting up boards," she said, "it's a very creative process."

The system averages over **350** calls every day, with **200** new callers every month, and close to **1,000** paid subscribers. The system offers 10 gigabytes of files, (all adult files were removed after attending last year's ONE BBSCON conference in Colorado Springs), 250 FidoNet echoes, 250 Internet newsgroups and e-mail, as well as 30 areas each in the GAYCOM and AdultLink networks. A 486/33 with 16 MB RAM is the heart of this three machine network; with another computer used to keep their 13 CD ROMs accessible, and a third for development. The BBS is accessed through 10 Hayes 14.4 kbps modems and eight Hayes 28.8 V.FC modems.

The system features an online travel database, restaurant reviews, an online shopping mall with books, magazines, teas and coffees available. At this time La Hay is working on getting shareware programs included in the offerings, but it is chat and the popular Adult shareware game, the Wildside that garner most of the callers attention.

Subscriptions to AlphaOne Online can be had for **\$36** per year with one hour calls, and one megabyte of downloads, but they won't be able to post to the any of the nets or send Internet e-mail. Callers wanting the ability to post messages to the nets including the Internet, access to USA Today, and unlimited downloads, can do so for **\$75** annually.

Toby Schneider and Gloria La Hay, AlphaOne Online, P.O.Box 248, Park Ridge, IL 60068; (708)827-3615 voice; (708)827-3623 BBS.

EIGHTH PLACE - AMERICA'S SUGGESTION BOX - (516) 471-8625

Making a big leap from 31 in last year's Readers' Choice Contest, to number eight this year, is America's Suggestion Box, **(516)471-8625**, in Ronkonkoma, New York - a suburb of New York City, with **375** votes. This 16 line board (all 14.4 kbps), running eSoft's TBBS has been carefully nurtured to its current status by sysop Joe Jerszynski, who spends 14 to 16 hours everyday catering to the needs of his system and its users.



**Joe Jerszynski (right), wife Maria,
cosysop Joe Mongan and Doodle**

Jerszynski chose TBBS because of its database programming capabilities and it was an easy and economical way to go multiline, and he knew he wanted to do that. The board first opened in February 1992 with four lines because "I wanted to start off with a bang," he said, of course the telephone company forgiving installation charges didn't hurt either.

Today the system is set up in a lower level of his house on a five node Lantastic LAN, with a Pentium Del 5/66 as the main BBS machine, a 486/66 development machine, a 386/25 working as a file server and CD ROM (22 of them) server, a 486/33 working under Desqview managing 1200 usenet newsgroups and other files through a Planet Connect file feed, and lastly a Toshiba laptop which is used to log onto the board for maintenance.

The board boasts **3,000** users with **400** paid subscribers many of whom are screaming for "real" Internet access, (i.e. ftp, archie, gopher, telnet, etc.). "We've had people begging us to get

(Internet)" Jerszynski said, "there is a huge market out here right now." To accommodate the vociferous masses, he assures that a 56 Kb leased line to the Internet is reserved and waiting to be hooked up, with the telnet address: **asb.com**, as soon as Phil Becker of eSoft finishes his Internet box for TBBS, known as IPAD.

In the mean time, he has been working to install another 56 Kb leased line to neighboring Nassau County, (he is in Suffolk County), to create a point of presence in that area and eliminate long distance charges for an estimated four million possible users. With any luck, he hopes to install the point of presence connection and the Internet connection simultaneously this fall.

While he hopes this added and economical access to his system will help his subscriber base grow, he isn't giving up on the things that allowed him to quit his job as a programmer for a pharmaceutical company in June of last year and work on the BBS as a full time job. A big part of allowing him to do this has been his approach to marketing the system just as you would market any other product, "...and it really works," he

said. Throughout the year, he runs periodic specials, or sales to capture the attention of callers. The sales, he said, really keep callers excited about the system - adding that every time he runs a monthly sale the biggest runs to take advantage of the offer are at the beginning and end of the month.

Jerszynski's favorite part of the Suggestion Box is the global file search, which will search all **110,000** files, including those on the CD ROMs, in five or ten seconds - a good thing as at this time the board is primarily a file board. With the addition of full Internet access and by perhaps offering SLIP/PPP accounts as well, the chief draw for this system could be very much up in the air in the coming months.

Jerszynski lives in his house with wife (proverbial, but very understanding and encouraging computer widow) Maria, and dog (mut - shepherd/collie mix) Doodle, who like hanging around the BBS because of the air conditioning. Also hanging around the system is Joe Mongan, a partner and co-sysop Jerszynski hired last year to assist in

the operations of the board. For those wanting to speak with Jerszynski, he can be reached from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days a week at the voice support number for the BBS.

Subscriptions to America's Suggestion Box are **\$25** per quarter without Internet e-mail and newsgroups, **\$15** per quarter for e-mail and newsgroups only, or **\$38** per quarter for both. Similarly, annual subscriptions are **\$43** per year without e-mail and newsgroups, **\$45** per year for e-mail and newsgroups only, or **\$70** per year for both.

Joe Jerszynski, America's Suggestion Box, 101 Locust Blvd., Ronkonkoma, New York 11779; (516)981-1953 voice; (516)471-8625 BBS.

NINTH PLACE - LIFESTYLE (516) 689-5390

After bouncing from 12 in 1992 to 23 in last year's contest, Lifestyle Online (516)689-5390, in East Setauket, New York, breaks into the top ten for the first time this year with **341** votes landing it in ninth place. The board takes **1,800** calls everyday, has over **3,000** active users and gets more than **100** new users every week.

The system first opened on Thanksgiving Day 1989 with nine lines on a 386 running Patrick Gleason's Oracomm software for OS/2. Today this adult chat board is still working with Oracomm OS/2, is in fact the beta development site for the software, and is running 75 lines still on a single PC (486/66) - more lines than any other board on a single processor, according to Marc Laffer, president of Online Technologies, the parent company of Lifestyle Online. Later this year, Laffer will be the sole distributorship for Oracomm software, (a name change may occur), as the system makes a commercial effort, likely specializing in the chat arena.

Like so many successful boards, Laffer has found the "niche" to make his system successful - adult chat. With the entire system operating on 65 megabytes of memory, the only files to be found are a limited number of spell-checked erotic stories and all messages are "time sensitive" data - leaving only current e-mail available. The board, a member of NASCA, (North American Swing Club Association), has no Internet connection, no shopping, no .gif images, no networking - "It's (the BBS) strictly designed to make adult contacts" Laffer said. "It is known that if you log on to Lifestyle and can't make contact with others within hours of your



Marc Laffer and Lifestyle Online

membership activation, there's something wrong with your computer."

For those wanting those suggestive .gif images, Online Technologies has another board - GRAFIX, (516)689-2853 specializing in just that. Earlier this year, the company moved operations from a basement set up to a **\$100,000** office condominium and currently has five employees with Diane Krasner as the sysop of Lifestyle, and Glenn Colflesh as the director of operations.

The board is accessible through Global Access, providing local access calls via an X.25 network, (800)377-3282 voice. Subscriptions to Lifestyle are **\$52** for 3 months with up to **80** minutes of access per day. For those in the Big Apple, Laffer said they are currently working on adding an additional **32** direct lines to New York City, which should be installed some time this fall, putting the system well over 100 lines on a single PC.

Mark Laffer, Online Technologies/Lifestyle Online, P.O.Box 577, East Setauket, NY 11733; (516)689-5390 BBS.

TENTH PLACE - PRODIGY GENEALOGY

Giving a new twist to the Reader's Choice Contest for 1994, Prodigy has made an unprecedented foray into the online world of BBSs with its Genealogy forum placing an impressive tenth place with **335** votes.

The forum is a whirlwind of information exchange for those trying to find everything they ever wanted to know about their family names and histories, lost relations, biological parents (for adoptees), and much more. Myra Vanderpool-Gormley, the online genealogy expert for Prodigy since June of 1990 finds the board to be a little different than many she sees.

For one thing, she said, most of the people in the forum are well educated and pretty much know what they're looking to find. In addition, the newbies who do come online don't seem to have too much trouble figuring out where to find things and how to get them, thanks to the layout of the system and its complete documentation. Overall, she described the forum as a place where egos are absent and flame wars simply do not exist.

Some of the more popular areas in the forum are: **U.S. States** - where people post new libraries, archives, and repositories they have found; **Missing Relatives** - an area where many people find long lost cousins, brothers, sisters and other relations; **Sur Names** - where those interested can find out all about the origin and history of their sur name; **Native American** - for tracking ancestral trees of the various Indian tribes present in North America, (Vanderpool-Gormley warns, this can be a rather complex search in comparison to some of the others); **Adoptions** - a place where adopted children and biological parents alike search for the destination or origin of their bloodlines; **Genealogy and Computers** - where the latest software and shareware used in tracking family histories is discussed but not available, including ROOTS IV, what Vanderpool-Gormley calls the "Cadillac" of



Myra Vanderpool - Gormley
Genealogy expert

genealogy programs, Personal Ancestral File, (PAF) - developed by the Mormon Church and likely the most popular program, and Brothers Keeper and Family Tree Maker - two other programs to assist would be genealogist, as well as other areas. Vanderpool-Gormley writes a syndicated column for the Los Angeles Times titled "Shaking the Family Tree," and has been an active genealogy hobbyist for the past 20 years. In a busy week she will answer

The **BIG** List



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MicroSeller BBS (201)239-0001 Verona, New Jersey since 03/83. Sysop: Mark Rapp. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 11 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5100 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. PCBoard 15.x alpha site. NJ's preferred BBS for the professional 11 yrs running. HiSpeed lines for easy access. Gold mine of the best-quality, latest files, games, info. Many mail networks including Internet. Trial access provided. Major credit cards.

Chat Chalet (201)791-8850 Saddle Brook, New Jersey since 04/91. Sysop: Ronnie Meier. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 24 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 877 MB storage. Practical at 14400 bps. \$10.00 Monthly fee. "Where New Friends Meet" (We get over 700 calls each day) Send us your picture we will make you a GIF (FREE)

BEACON STUDIOS BBS (201)863-5253 Union City, New Jersey since 01/93. Sysop: Conrad & Scott. Using Major BBS 6.11 with 15 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 15090 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$.50 Hourly fee. NJ's largest database of downloadable files with 20 CDs on-line. Free downloads for new users with 60 min. allowed daily. Two National Chat hookups every night. InterNet, UseNet, FidoNet, MajorNet, WorldLink and ChatLink.

The Starship II BBS (201)935-1485 Rutherford, New Jersey since 07/80. Sysop: Phillip J. Buonomo. Using TBBS 2.3 with 32 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 10000 MB storage. All v.32bis Supportd at 19200 bps. \$50-75 No fee req fee. Operating for 14+ years, Starship is one of the longest running, most successful bbs systems EVER! FREE public access, Adult & non-adult topics, chat, files, games, & databases. USR, Hayes, Telebit, v.32bis 19.2 kbaud modems online, full internet access!

CyberQuest (206)343-5688 Seattle, Washington since 11/93. Sysop: Scott Brown. Using TBBS 2.2 with 18 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$.25 Hourly fee. Full internet access, home of Seattle After-Dark. Telnet to cyberquest.com. Extensive shareware, files, news via satellite. Active & friendly chat areas. Multi-player games, Connex, newsgroups, FidoNet. Flexible rates, free trial. All credit cards.

FutureLink OIS (206)813-8778 Kent, Washington since 01/94. Sysop: Sheree Graham. Using WildCat 3.9M with 1 line on MS-DOS with 20 MB storage. Hayes at 19200 bps. No fee. We are for the whole family. Internet's Usenet, E-Mail, games, PC-Catalog, FL-Gazette, CD-ROMs (organized), free 1 week preview. Shopping mall, register online, our customer service is excellent. Nice RIP support. Free gift with purchase of complete.

Exxtacy Adult BBS (209)962-4045 Pine Mt. Lake, California since 04/86. Sysop: Victoria Cummings. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 9600 bps. \$25 Annual fee. 6 Gigs and over 20,000 latest hi-rez erotic files. New member bonus. Free amateur x-rated video to new members this month. Full access and Free adult videotape only \$25 a year. Visa and mastercard accepted online. Call today, for exxtacy tonight.

The Invention Factory BBS (212)274-8110 New York City, NY since 03/84. Sysop: Michael Sussell. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 48 lines on MS-DOS/NOVELL-3.11 with 99999 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$15 Monthly fee. New York's best BBS! Free downloads for new users. More than 14 gig of shareware and freeware. Internet/Usenet E-mail. Large adult files area. Master/Visa/Amex.

Midnight Driver Data Super Highway (212)750-3643 New York City since 07/93. Sysop: Dave Lew. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 3000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$59.95 Annual fee. Free Internet mail and Usenet news. Over 866 Usenet newsgroups and increasing every day. 2 CD-ROMs with tons of Shareware. Lots of games including the latest Apogee wares. The best buy around. Come cruise by and see what all the excitement is about.

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BCS BBS (213)962-2902 Los Angeles, California since 03/92. Sysop: Jim Lee. Using WildCat 3.90P with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$52 Annual fee. Los Angeles' premium BBS. Full subscription. ILink, Cal-Link & Internet, Usenet. Quality files only. New services regularly added. All major credit cards. 6 high speed lines and growing rapidly.

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ClockWork the BBS (215)546-7088 Philadelphia, PA since 05/93. Sysop: Sloan. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 19 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1200 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. FIRST MONTH FREE!! We offer ChatLink and MajorNet. We also have over 6 Gigabytes of Shareware and Freeware available from CD-ROMs and many other files, including MAC, on disk. PLUS we have over 20 online multi-player games. We support RIP.

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The Round Table (215)678-0818 Reading, Pennsylvania since 03/90. Sysop: Dan McCoy. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 7 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 2500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$20 Annual fee. Free two week access for all. Engineering & AutoCad specialty system. 50,000+ files technical, Windows, DOS util & more. 400+ qigs on 6 networks. USA Today, games, & news. Member USN and ASP.

ONIX (215)879-6616 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since 04/87. Sysop: Jeff N. Miller. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 22 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2550 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$15 Monthly fee. Philadelphia's friendliest BBS. 38 multi-player games. Files for IBM, Amiga, MAC, Windows. Local & national chat lines. Internet, Usenet, Majornet, Worldlink. RIP support. 30 days free for new members. King of Prussia: (610)992-1720

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The Digital Inn (303)296-1300 Denver, Colorado since 03/94. Sysop: Steve Adams. Using TBBS 2.2 with 10 lines on MS-DOS with 17000 MB storage. Intel at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. 18 CD ROM's online, satellite Internet/Usenet News Groups, Fido Echo Areas, Internet Email. USA Today, Boardwatch. Great message areas, Ultrachat, games. FREE OPEN HOUSE! Type "open" as access ID during registration. Home of HotelNet online H&R services.

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The File Bank, Inc. (303)534-4646 Denver, Colorado since 01/93. Sysop: Brian Bartee. Using TBBS 2.2 with 22 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 21000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. ASP Approved BBS & one of the finest collections of IBM-Compatible Shareware. Many free download areas including extensive libraries of Astronomy Software & Data files. Message Areas, Online Games, Chat. VISA, MC, AMEX, Discover Welcome. Voice: 534-4538.

The Board of Directors (303)693-4798 Aurora, Colorado since 08/91. Sysop: Larry Coulson. Using WildCat! 3.9 with 1 line on MS-DOS with 350 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$25 Annual fee. An information exchange service for entrepreneurs, managers and business professionals. We feature only the highest quality business related shareware. Message base includes Fido and Bizynet echos.

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The LINK BBS (310)459-1264 Los Angeles, California since 09/93. Sysop: Samuel Koh. Using WildCat 3.91M with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. FREE Access to Internet! Free membership to California's BEST System! We have it all! News, Stocks, Weather, Magazines, Business, Hobbies, Computers, & Shopping. Local Access to (213)-(818)-(310) Area codes. Call Today and LINK to the Future today!

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HAL 9000 BBS (313)663-4173 Ann Arbor, Michigan since 03/88. Sysop: Victor R. Volkman. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 10 lines on 80486 with 2800 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$30 Optional fee. Archives of all Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP) software on line. Large SciFi GIF collection. Internet, Usenet e-mail and newsgroups from around the world. Special file areas devoted to Star Trek and The Prisoner TV shows and much more.

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VINET BBS (314)464-3794 Barnhart, Missouri since 06/94. Sysop: Mary Voss. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 345 MB storage. Infotel at 14400 bps. \$50.00 Annual fee. Vinet BBS offers a variety of information, including Classified Ad's, Internet Mail, Contests, Teleconferencing, Games, Program files, and more. Try our 30 day free trial offer and decide for yourself.

Paradise Graphix (315)732-0371 New Hartford, New York since 04/94. Sysop: Tom Zalewski. Using WildCat 3.9 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 1300 MB storage. Boca at 14400 bps. \$24.99 Annual fee. Specializing in Adult Graphics Featuring TIFF images, Online Adult Games. New Scans added Monthly.

Beyond Engineering (316)496-2020 La Harpe, Kansas since 07/94. Sysop: John Heard. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 2800 MB storage. Microcom at 28800 bps. \$60 Annual fee. Be our 144th subscriber and receive a 14400bps modem. Free downloads from Demo area. Thousands of ACAD, Engineering, Gifs, Windows, DOS Utils, Online Game Connection and more. We are on FidoNet 1:14/689 and MajorNet@BEY.

The CopStop BBS (317)788-7770 Indianapolis, Indiana since 12/86. Sysop: David Myers. Using Renegade v7-17 with 1 line on MS-DOS with 3200 MB storage. Zoom at 28800 bps. No fee. Indiana's only Law Enforcement & Public Safety BBS. Open to the general public as well. Over 3.2 gigs of software. SafetyNet, PoliceNet, FidoNet. Over 30 online games. World HQ for the PoliceNet Search & Recovery diving echo.

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The INDEX System TBBS (404)924-8472 Woodstock, Georgia since 04/83. Sysop: Rodney A. Aloia. Using TBBS 2.2 with 32 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. This is a BBS for the Serious Modem'er! Internet, FidoNet, Games, Chat, Files Messages, on one of Atlanta's oldest and largest BBS's. Great fun. Local to Athens and LaGrange, GA. Operated by INDEX, the place to buy BBS S/W.

The Outdoor Sportsman BBS (407)635-9590 Cocoa, Florida since 07/92. Sysop: John Cornelius. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1200 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. Fishing, Hunting, Diving & other outdoor related activities. Quality file selection. Ripscrip support. Hayes 28.8k V.FC modem. All welcome, not just the outdoor person. Growing quickly. Plus more.

The Ride (408)399-4515 Los Gatos, California since 06/87. Sysop: Tex. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 14 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 30000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$.50 Hourly fee. The Ride BBS chat system offering systems in both Los Gatos and Sonora, (209)536-1555. The Ride BBS has a full file base system along with most of the popular games. See you online. Adults only.

Nitelog BBS (408)655-1096 Monterey, California since 02/89. Sysop: Karl Van Lear. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 24 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8400 MB storage. US Robotics at 21600 bps. \$28 Quarterly fee. DOS, Win 3x, OS/2, UNIX, MAC and Adult files. Internet EMail, Usenet, RIME, ILink & Fidonet conferences. National weather maps updated 8 times daily. Online realtime CHAT. All major credit cards accepted. 600 to 700 new files added weekly.

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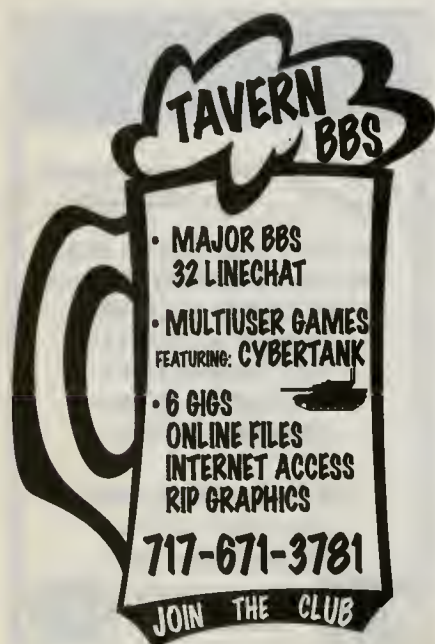
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BMUG BBS	(510)849-2684	Support for Macintosh owners - files - conferences.	Berkeley Macintosh Users Group	Berkeley CA
Beach Board BBS 1:371/1	(813)337-4950	Over 100 online games - Internet Mail - 8 lines - 48000 fls	Dave Ward	Fort Myers FL
Beyond Eternity	(310)371-3734	Home of EEEK! Bits - Weekly Electronic Trivia Magazine	J. Black/K. Taghadossi	Torrance CA
Beyond the Realm	(805)987-5506	200+ message areas 60+ file areas Fidonet VNet Adult Topics	Lee Ladisky	Camarillo CA
Boardwatch Magazine Online Info	(303)973-4222	Distribution Service for USA Today/Boardwatch/Newsbytes	Business & Computer Book Store	Littleton CO
Book BBS	(215)657-6130	Information on 2000 Computer Books - 800 order number	Charles Stack	Willow Grove PA
Book Stacks Unlimited	(216)694-5732	200,000 Book Titles Database - Online Ordering	Borland International/Mike Fitz-Enz	Cleveland OH
Borland Download BBS	(408)431-5096	Utilities, Macros, Programming Examples for Borland Products	Myles Bratter	Scotts Valley CA
Botnay Bay EIS	(603)431-7229	20 GB of Files - Adult areas - BBS Lists	Gary Knopp/InfoNorth	Portsmouth NH
Boundary Waters BBS	(218)365-6907	Canoe Trips/Resorts/Fishing/Wilderness in Minnesota	Bruce Lomasky	Ely MN
Bruce's Bar & Grill	(203)236-3761	24-line Social System - Chat - Games - Downloads	Alan Bryant	West Hartford CT
Bryant Software	(303)733-0773	Support & Demo of Bryant Software & TBBS Products	Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries	Denver CO
C.A.R.L Library Service	(303)758-1551	Citations to 4 Million Texts in Colorado Library System FREE	Stan Bimson	Hendersonville TN
CAD/Engineering Service	(615)822-2539	Computer Aided Design File Distribution Network 1:116/32	Ward Christensen/Randy Suess	Chicago IL
CBBS/Chicago	(312)545-8086	First Electronic Bulletin Board - Since 2/16/78		
CD Connection	(408)985-8982	80000 Compact Disks, Order Online (telnet:cdconnection.com)		
Canada Remote Systems	(416)213-6003	23GB/400000+ files, 3500 Conf's, USENET, IBM/Amiga/Mac		
Capital PC User's Group BBS	(301)738-9060	One of the oldest PC User's Groups - 5500 members		
Castle Tabby 107/412	(908)988-0706	Home of TABB Y Fidonet Interface Program for Apple Macintosh		
			Neil Fleming/Jud Newell	Mississauga Ontario
			Capital PC Users Group/Roger Fajman	Rockville MD
			Michael E. Connick	Bradley Beach NJ

Caverns of the Abyss	(405)482-2980	4 Gigs Online CD Roms	Shannon Graham	Altus	OK
Celebration Station	(207)667-0800	Adventure Games, Chat, and Sigs - Children	Noel Stookey (Paul of Peter, Paul & Mary)	Blue Hill Falls	ME
Central Point Software	(503)690-6650	PC Tools - Central Point Anti-virus support board	Central Point Software Inc.	Beaverton	OR
Channel 1	(617)354-8873	70-line PCBoard - 8 GB Files - Internet - 1000's msg. confs.	Brian Miller/Tess Heder	Cambridge	MA
Chicago SysLink	(708)795-4442	Special Interest Areas for Ferret/Pet Owners. TRS80/Aviation	George Matyaszek	Berwyn	IL
Chinet	(312)283-0559	UNIX System offering Internet Mail	Randy Sues	Chicago	IL
City Lites PCBoard	(701)772-5399	9 GB files, Rimenet, Internet, FidoNet, ASP, Online Orders	John Lundell	Grand Forks	ND
City Online	(909)860-Line	City Government BBS Rip/Internet & more	Troy Butzlaff	Diamond Bar	CA
Classified Connection BBS	(619)566-7347	Gifty Girls - Nude GIF Images of the Girl Next Door	Bill Kennon	San Diego	CA
Cleveland Freenet	(216)368-3888	Cleveland City Info/Public Library - Free Internet Mail Box	Case Western University/AT&T/Ohio Bell	Cleveland	OH
Cloud Nine	(713)855-4382	15 meg, 30 Nodes	Harold Lucas	Houston	TX
Colorado Connection	(303)423-9775	Breeding, Raising, Taming, Exotic Birds	Terry Rune/Dave McClauggage	Arvada	CO
Community News Service (CNS)	(719)520-5000	News and Entertainment - 17 Lines Community Focus	Klaus Dimmler	Colorado Springs	CO
Compact Audio Disk Exchange	(415)824-7603	Buy/Sell/Trade Compact Audio Disks Online	Wayne Gregori	San Francisco	CA
Computer Business Services	(714)396-0014	Book/Publishing Consultant Nick Anis' BBS	Nick Anis Jr.	Diamond Bar	CA
Computer Business Services	(909)396-0014	Book/Publishing Consultant John C. Dvorak & Nick Anis' BBS	Nick Anis Jr.	Diamond Bar	CA
Computer Garden	(301)546-1508	Treasure Hunting - Metal Detectors - Online Catalog	Milford P. Webster	Salisbury	MD
Computing Canada Online	(416)497-5263	Adjunct to Excellent Canadian PC Newspaper	Computing Canada Newspaper	Willowdale	Ontario
Crosstalk Communications BBS	(404)740-8428	Product Support for Crosstalk for Windows/MK4/XVI	Digital Communications Associates	Roswell	GA
Cul-de-Sac Bar & Grill	(508)429-1784	Multiline Service - Ham Radio - Humor - TDBS Applications	Pete White	Holliston	MA
CyberStore - a COCONET BBS	(604)526-3676	All lines to v.32bis/42/bis. CyberTools for BBS'es	CyberStore Online Info. Systems Inc.	New Westminster	BC
DAK Online Resource Center	(818)715-7153	DAK Mail Order Catalog - Breakmakers - CD ROMS - Computers	DAK Industries/Tom Krogh	Canoga Park	CA
DEMO Link	(303)220-0328	Free Demo Downloads of Quattro Pro/Lotus Magellan/More	BIX/Byte Magazine		
DNIS	(619)864-1468	Outstanding BBS Gateway to multiple information services	Mike Simmons	Palm Springs	CA
Dark Side of the Moon	(408)245-7726	Home of WAFFLE, Unix UUCP BBS Software for DOS and UNIX	Thomas E. Dell/Darkside International	Mountain View	CA
Data Bank	(913)842-7744	Information HQ, Support Board, Net-Mail & Files	Bob Oyler	Lawrence	KS
Data Core BBS	(310)842-6880	25 line Major BBS	Matthew Schoen/Delta Enterprises	Los Angeles	CA
DataLink RBBS System	(214)394-7438	Weather Satellite Imaging, NOAA Satellite Tracking-AMSAT-NA	Dallas Remote Imaging Group/Jeff Wallach	Carrollton	TX
Dawg Byte	(615)385-4268	ANSI Art Club 1:116/29	Kevin Snively	Nashville	TN
Deep Cove BBS	(604)536-5885	16 line TBBS, 3500 MBytes files for IBM, MAC, Amiga	Wayne Duval	White Rock	BC
Denver Exchange, The 104/909	(303)458-1227	28 Lines Adult BBS/Internet/Files/Chat/Games/Publications	James Craig	Denver	CO
Denver Free-Net	(303)270-4865	Free Community Online Service - Health Info	University of Colorado Health Science		CO
Digicom	(812)479-1310	Home of Tech Support BBS List, Online Magazines, 1.7 Gigs	Steve Perlo	Evansville	IN
Distant Mirror BBS	(615)648-1782	Free Access BBS	Chris Duke	Clarksville	TN
Duke Graphics of San Diego	(619)793-8360	7 CD Roms Online, 4 gigs 50,000 files	Bob and Tracey Mahoney	San Diego	CA
EXEC-PC	(414)789-4210	Largest BBS in US - 280 Lines -650,000 files - 35 Gigabytes	Ambassador Wildlife Gallery/Bob Chapman	Elm Grove	WI
EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389	Wildlife/Conservation Art Gallery GIF Images	Barry Macdonald/Vancouver Board of Ed	North Charleston	SC
Ed-Net	(604)732-8877	Vancouver School Board Multi-Line Educational Network	Bonneville Power Administration WSE	Vancouver	BC
Electric Ideas Clearinghouse	(206)586-6854	Energy Efficiency Efforts In Pacific Northwest-HydroElec	Brian Cash	Olympia	WA
Electronic Publishers BBS	(503)624-4966	News-Finance-Sports-Games-2GB File Library	William R. Forbes	Portland	OR
Electronic Zone, The	(412)349-3504	Specializing in Hypertext	US Department of Energy	Indiana	PA
Energy Info Admin E-Publications	(202)686-8658	Variety of Petroleum/Coal/Electricity Energy Statistics	Jim Maxey	Washington	D.C.
Entertainment & Graphics	(503)697-5100	Entertainment & Graphics	Jim Maxey	Lake Oswego	OR
Event Horizons	(914)667-4567	64 Line Digitized Graphics Image Library - Adult .GIF files	Andy Keeves	Lake Oswego	OR
Executive Network	(415)255-5972	Interlink Netmail National Host - Multiline PCBoard System	Bill Montgomery	Mt. Vernon	NY
Eye Contact BBS	(800)645-3736	22 line Oracom - Gay Issues - Popular Chat System	FAA/Bill Hoenstine	Mill Valley	CA
FAA Flight Standards ASO-FSDO-15	(619)224-3853	FAA Flight Standards Publication & Info for the Aviation Com	Scotty Olson	Orlando	FL
FAX/Satellite Services BBS	(301)725-1072	NOAA Weather Satellite Images - Russian/Japanese Sat Pics	Federal Communications Commission	San Diego	CA
FCC Public Access Link	(202)887-5718	Equipment Authorization Status Advisory Service	Smithwick & Belendiuk, P.C.	Columbia	MD
FCC WORLD	(202)707-4888	FCC Documents, Forums	Federal Library Information Network	Washington	DC
FEDLINK ALIX II	(415)863-9697	Info on Federal Libraries -Excerpts Library of Congress News	Bill Essex	Washington	D.C.
FOG City BBS 125/10	(703)803-8000	Gay Community BBS - AIDS Info - Desktop Publishing - MACS	Herb Rose	San Francisco	CA
Falken Support BBS	(604)381-3934	Support for FALKEN software - 16 lines - doors - chat	Ren L'Ecuier	Woodbridge	VA
Farwest BBS	31-30-735900	Large Western Canada Galacticom Info System	J.J. van der Maas	Victoria	BC
Fido Tech Stand		Fidonet Technical Information for Holland		Utrecht	Holland

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - September 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSP	LOCATION
Fire & Ice	(313)373-8608	A Family BBS With Christians Discussions	William Sims	MI
Fisherman's Net	(614)837-0400	Dedicated to Fisherman	Lloyd Davidson	OH
Foundation Online Service	(203)968-8752	15+ Gigs 8 Lines Internet	David Deutsch	CT
Fred the Computer	(508)872-8461	Newspaper BBS. Wierdnet Newswire. List of MA Libraries	Middlesex News-Adam Gaffin	MA
FreeBoard BBS, The	(804)744-0797	Desktop Publishing File Distribution Network 1:264/212	Bill Hunter	VA
Fun Connection	(503)753-8431	Multiline Entertainment - 8 Lines Games/Chat/News	Vincent Reece	OR
GDP Technologies	(303)673-9470	Outstanding IBM Shareware on a small system	Tom Getty's	CO
GISnet BBS	(303)447-0927	Graphics Information Systems/Mapping topics	Bill Thoen	CO
GLIB	(703)578-4542	Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau - 11 Lines - 9600 bps	Community Educational Svcs. Foundation	VA
GPO WINDO Online Service	(202)512-1387	Fed Information from EPA, DOE, State Department - others.	US Government Printing Office	DC
Galacticomm Demo System	(305)583-7808	Customer support for Major BBS	Galacticomm	FL
Garbage Dump	(505)294-5675	Hottest Chat in America - National Access \$1.75 per Hour	Dean Kerl & Simon Clement	NM
Gateway Communications BBS	(714)863-7097	Novell Netware/TCP-IP Shareware Utilities	Carol De Jesus	CA
Gateway On-Line	(313)291-5571	Interactive Chat/Multiplayer Games, Usenet/Internet, E-mail	Jeff Breithner/Bill Mullen	MI
General, The	(619)281-8616	Popular File Library - GIF Images	Marc Teitler	CA
Greenpeace Environet	(415)512-9108	Ecological and Peace Issues - Disarmament/Toxics/Wildlife	Dick Dillman/Greenpeace	CA
HH Info-Net BBS	(203)246-3747	MS Windows and OS/2 Files our specialty	Lee Winsor	CT
Hackers R Us Online	(602)945-8416	Online Games, Files & Tech Discussions	David Ray	AZ
Hackers World BBS	(309)872-4405	Adult Files, Fidonet Echo-Mail Adult-net	Martin Belcke	IL
Harris City Medical BBS	(713)790-1093	Medical Information	Monica Faulk	TX
Hayes Advanced Systems Support	(800)874-2937	Customer Support Line for Hayes Customers. V-series/Ultra	Hayes Microcomputer Products	GA
Heartland Free-net	(309)874-1100	Community Online Service - Free Internet E-Mail Boxes	Peoria County Board/Bradley University	IL
Hepnet/Satronics TBBS	(215)698-1905	Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish	Mark Miller	PA
HoloNet	(510)704-1058	National Access, INTERNET, USENET, CHAT, GIFS, FILES	Information Access Technologies, Inc.	CA
HouseNet BBS	(410)745-2037	Home Fixup/Repair/Renovation Tips, Advice, and Articles	Gene and Katie Hamilton	MD
Howard's Notebook 1:280/25	(816)331-5868	Environmental, Peace, Justice since 1982 - 4 nodes	Jim Howard	MO
Hysteries	(613)231-7144	Amiga File Distribution Network 1:163/109	Russell McOrmond	GA
IBM National Support Center BBS	(404)835-5300	IBM PC User Groups Database - Newsletter Exchange	IBM National Support Center	NY
Inbound/Outbound/Teleconnect	(212)989-4675	Telephone Sales Trade Magazine Online Service	Harry Newton Publications	FL
Infinite Space Online	(407)856-0021	32 Line Interactive Chat & Games Majornet	Charlie Scherker	NJ
InfoHost Demo BBS	(201)335-2253	Demo BBS for InfoHost BBS Software - Multiline - Database	A-Comm Electronics Inc.	TX
Inns of Court, The	(214)458-2620	LAN Related Files and Utilities 1:124/6101	Arthur Geffen	OR
Intel PCEO Support BBS	(503)645-6275	Support for Intel PC Products - Inboard 386/AboveBoard 286	Intel Corporation PCEO Division	NV
Inter Comm	(702)359-2666	6 Line 5.5 Gig 30,000 Files	Roger Brown	FL
InterMail Tech Support BBS	(305)436-1884	Home of InterMail, Front End Mailer for FidoNet 1:369/102	Patrik Bertilsson	NY
Invention Factory	(212)274-8110	46 Lines - 100 Directories - Full Usenet Feed - 8.2 GB	Mike Sussell	WA
Investor's Online Data	(206)285-5359	Online Investment/Stock Market Information/Tech Analysis	Don Shepherdson	CA
JDR Microdevices BBS	(408)559-0253	Online Hardware Order - Catalog - 1.1 GB Files - Quizzes	JDR Microdevices	GA
JOBBS	(404)992-8937	Online Job Listings - 2186 Technical Pos. - 10,000 Corps.	Alpha Systems Inc./Bill Griffin	GA
KIMBERLY BBS	(612)340-2489	Prime Rate-Fed Funds-T-Bill-Discount Rate-Economic Data	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	NY
Keith Graham Shareware Support	(914)623-0039	OPTIK, TEXT2COM, CBOOT, very good shareware utilities	Keith P. Graham	CO
King's Market BBS 104/115	(303)665-6091	400 MB Books, Writers Area - TRS 80 Support	Jim and Karen Burt	CA
Knight Vision BBS	(213)344-3600	Chess and Backgammon - 8 lines - "Intelligent Entertainment"	Matthew Beelby	CA
LANTASTIC BBS	(602)293-8065	Support for LANTASTIC local area network	Artisoft Inc.	AZ
LICA Limbs BBS	(516)561-6590	Member written software PC Board 15.0 USR HST Since 1980	Dave Minott	NY
Lace's Place	(718)822-3552	Female Domination Adult BBS online since 7/91	Ellen Grogan	NY
Late Night Software 125/555	(415)695-0759	Home of UFGATE - Software to connect PCs to UUCP/Usenet	Tim Pozar	CA
LegalEase	(509)326-3238	Legal issues/Forms - Law BBS List	Bill Sorcinelli	WA

Lincoln Cabin BBS	(415)752-4490	General Interests & Rime	Steve Pomerantz	San Francisco	CA
MAC-LINK	(514)486-8959	Macintosh Oriented Support BBS - 6 Lines - Infomat/BIX	Mark Smith	Montreal	Quebec
METRO Online Entertainment	(212)831-9280	32 line DLX with City Guide/Ski Database - Matchmaker - Chat	Bruce Kamm/Metro Online Services	New York City	NY
MOG-UR'S EMS, The	(818)366-1238	5 Lines - 8 Networks CD-ROMS - 2.8 GB Hub Services HST/V.32	Tom Tcimplidis	Granada Hills	CA
MacCircles	(303)526-2219	Mac System Software distributor, mail, sigs, files	Patricia O'Connor	Golden	CO
MacInternational	(803)798-3755	Macintosh support since April '85. FirstClass BBS	Ralph Yount	Columbia	SC
Macalot Bulletin Board	(412)846-5312	Support for Second Sight BBS Software for Macintosh	Jeff Dripps/FreeSoft Company	Beaver Falls	PA
Magpie BBS	(212)420-0527	Support/Demo System for Magpie BBS/Conferencing Software	Steve Manes	New York	NY
MaxiHost Support BBS	(209)836-2402	MaxiHost BBS - small, very easy to run BBS	Don Mankin	San Ramon	CA
Mayan Antiquities	(214)691-1316	Mayan Culture and Antiquities	Ron Whipple	Dallas	TX
McAfee Associates BBS	(408)988-4004	Computer Virus Information - VIRUSCAN and CLEANUP	John McAfee/CVIA	Santa Clara	CA
Med Technet	(716)688-1552	Educational research for Clinical Laboratory professionals	Bill Hliwa	East Amherst	NY
Medi-Call BBS	(818)330-1739	Active 2 lines PubSvc w/ 120 netmail confs., & GIGs of Files	Gordon Huyck	La Puenet	CA
Meeting Works, The	(212)737-6932	Meeting/seminar/convention planning information.	John Mackenzie	New York	NY
Micro Foundry, The	(415)598-0398	2.2 GB Downloads - Your Online Software Source - Boardwatch	Thomas Nelson/Clockwork Software	San Jose	CA
Micro Message Service	(919)779-6674	USA Today/Boxoffice Magazine - Large Download Area	Mike Stroud	Raleigh	NC
Micromin Technical Support BBS	(206)649-9836	Support for Popular R:Base Relational Data Base System	Microrim Corporation	Redmond	WA
Microsoft Download BBS	(206)936-6735	Windows Technical Notes and Support Information	Microsoft Corp/Scott J. Honaker	Bellevue	WA
Microsystems Software Inc.	(508)875-8009	HandiWare Software for Handicapped - CodeRunner C Utilities	MSI - Reed Lewis	Framingham	MA
MindVox	(212)989-4141	Internet Access, E-Mail, Newsgroups, ftp/telnet	Phantom Access Technologies	New York	NY
Minnesota Space Frontier	(612)459-0892	Minnesota Space Frontier Society - NASA News	Ben Husset	Minneapolis	MN
Monterey Gaming System	(408)655-5555	A Custom Multi-user BBS with Conferencing and Custom Games	David Janakes	Monterey	CA
Mountain Air BBS	(703)427-0226	Adult Based BBS	Edward Lee Wood, Jr.	Roanoke	VA
Movie BBS	(718)939-5462	Movie Reviews and Information - Television	Clarke Ulmer	New York	NY
Mustang Software	(805)873-2400	Support for Mustang Software Products	MSI Sysop	Bakersfield	CA
N.A.C.D. BBS	(912)246-3280	Cave Scuba Diving - Super Special Topic System	National Assoc. of Cave Divers	Gainsville	FL
N8EMR Ham BBS	(614)895-2553	login:hbs HAM Radio/AMSAT Unix System - Satellite/Packet	Gary Sanders	Westerville	OH
NAPLPS Graphics BBS	(613)727-5272	NAPLPS Graphics Terminal and Editor Software	MicroStar Corp.	Nepean	Ontario
NASA Spacelink	(205)895-0028	NASA Educational Affairs Div. - Flight Data/Space History	Marshall Space Flight Center	Huntsville	AL
NIST ACTS	(303)494-4775	Automated Computer Telephone Service - Sync PC to NBS Time	Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology	Boulder	CO
NOAA Space Environment Lab	(303)497-5042	Solar Flare/Geomagnetic Data Online	National Oceanographic/Atmospheric Admin	Boulder	CO
Namu BBS	(913)273-1550	Amateur Radio Interests	Rob Nail	Topeka	KS
Nashville Exchange	(615)383-0727	12 line TBBS - Games/TDBS Software Development 1.8 GB	Ben Cunningham	Nashville	TN
National Genealogical BBS	(703)528-2612	Family History - Genealogical Research - Gravestone Haunting	National Genealogical Society	Arlington	VA
Netcom Internet Guest System	(408)241-9760	Internet Access System - type "guest" at login for info.	Netcom Online Communications Services	San Jose	CA
Network World Bulletin Board	(508)620-1178	LAN and WAN issues and Technology	Network World Magazine	Framingham	MA
Newbed	(506)453-2147	Educational System K12 Net	William Brydges	Fredericton	NB
Newtown Express BBS	(215)943-6806	14.5 Gigs/700+Sigs 18 Lines Large Adult Section USA Today	Anthony Maglietta	Newton	PA
Night Shift, The	(818)955-5155	16 lines/chat/Usenet Newsgroups/Internet Mail/USATODAY	Charles Hilt	Burbank	CA
NoGate Consulting	(616)530-3392	Home of PAK archive utility	Mike Neuhaus	Grand Rapids	MI
North Castle BBS	(507)281-8292	Minnesotas #1 RPG BBS	Rob Richter	Rochester	MN
O&E Online	(313)591-0903	Free Community BBS, Editorial Text from Newspapers	Greg Day	Livonia	MI
OAQPSTTN	(919)541-5742	Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Net	Environmental Protection Agency	Rsrch Triangle Park	NC
OASIS BBS	(404)627-2662	Home of Atlanta Bulletin Board List - ABBL	Robert Orr/Online Atlanta Society	Decatur	GA
ODYSSEY	(818)358-6968	Largest Adult Based Entertainment Service in North America	Michael Allen	Monrovia	CA
OERI BBS	(800)222-4922	Educational Statistics and Data - Performance Stats -	US Department of Education	Washington	D.C.
Occupational Health/Safety BBS	(212)385-2034	Job Safety Issues for Artists, Musicians, Entertainers	Mike McCann/Center for Safety in Arts	New York	NY
Odyssey	(818)358-6968	Adult Multiline Chat System - Games - Magazines - Downloads	Michael Allen	Monrovia	CA
Old Colorado City Communications	(719)632-4111	Political Discussions - Unix UUCP Public Access - Multiline	Dave Hughes	Colorado Springs	CO
Online Now	(807)345-5522	Canada's shareware house is online now	Gary Walsh/Tom Haavisto	Thunder Bay	Ontario
Online With Hayes	(404)446-6336	Hayes Public Bulletin Board - Conferences/SIGS/Support	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross	GA
Oracle PC	6108 260-6222	South Australian TBBS Multiline System	Don Crago	Pooraka South	Australia
Oracomm Support BBS	(612)894-5879	Sales and Support for Oracomm Multiline BBS Software	Surf Computer Services	Minneapolis	MN
Osprey's Nest	(301)989-9036	Birdwatching, Bird feeding, Naturalist/Ecology Issues	Fran and Norm Saunders	Colesville	MD
Ozone Hole, The	(504)891-3142	Boardwatch-USA Today-Internet-Usenet-RIME	Mike Mathews	New Orleans	LA

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BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - September 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
P.D.S.L.O. BBS	(516)938-6722	Home of THE LIST National BBS List	James Toro	Hicksville NY
PC Junction BBS	(615)478-2890	Smartnet Throbneth 100,000 Files & Online Magazines	Douglas Carpenter	Cleveland TN
PC Ohio	(216)381-3320	Shareware library with 100% USR HST access - 24 lines	Norm Henke	Cleveland OH
PHYSICS Forum BBS	(413)545-1959	Physics and Astronomical Sciences	Univ. of Mass. Dept. of Physics/Astronomy	MA
PKWare BBS	(414)354-8670	Home of PKZIP 1.10 Compression Utility	Phil Katz/PKWare Incorporated	WI
PacComm BBS	(813)874-3078	Packet Radio Equipment Supplier - TNC/PSK Modems	Gwyn Reedy/PacCom Inc.	FL
Pennywise	(800)752-3012	Online Office Supply Sales Service	Pennywise	MD
Pinecliff BBS 104/28	(303)642-7463	Large Shareware Library/Echomail Conferences since 1985	Craig Baker	CO
Pinnacle Software BBS	(514)345-8654	Support for Sapphire BBS Software	Timothy Campbell/Pinnacle Software	Quebec
Pipeline, The	(209)592-9861	Construction topics for contractors, suppliers, public works	Michael W. Adams	CA
Pleasure Dome	(804)490-5878	Sexually Explicit Fantasy Chat System - Adults only	Tom Terrific	VA
Practical Peripherals BBS	(805)496-4445	Support BBS for Practical Peripherals Modems	Practical Peripherals	CA
ProComm Support BBS	(314)875-0503	Home of ProComm 2.4.3 and ProComm Plus Comm Prgrms	Thomas Smith/DataStorm Technologies Inc.	MO
Promised Land, The	(715)387-1339	16-Line/2.5GB/11,000+ Files/WINDOWS, Chat & More	Tim Brown/Computer Solutions	WI
Public Brand Software BBS	(317)856-2087	Commercial Shareware Vendor	Public Brand Software	IN
Public Connection	(817)738-7336	Public Files	Joe Coles	TX
QMail Deluxe Support BBS	(615)230-8822	Support for QMail Deluxe and 1stReader offline mail utils	Mark (Sparky) Herring	TN
Qualitas, Inc. BBS	(301)907-8030	386MAX and BlueMAX Memory Management Software Support	Qualitas Inc.	MD
Quarterdeck BBS	(310)314-3227	Technical Support for QEMM, DESQview, all Quarterdeck Prods	Quarterdeck Office Systems	CA
QuickBBS Support BBS 363/34	(407)896-0494	Product Support for QuickBBS Software	Richard Creighton/Steve Gabrilowitz	FL
Random Access Information Svc.	(503)695-3250	11,000 GIF Images - 20,000 DOS/Windows Shareware Files	Janice Stevens	OR
RoboBOARD/FX	(819)682-7771	RoboBOARD Support 8 Lines	Hamilton TeleGraphics Inc.	PQ
Rose Media	(416)733-2780	19 GB - Home of Rosemail - Publications/Conferences	Vic Kass	Ontario
Rusty & Edies	(216)726-0737	Large ML PCBboard run by Husband and Wife - NFL/Tradewars	Rusty and Edwina Hardenburgh	OH
SBA Online	(800)697-4636	Advice for Small Business Owners on Financing/Management	Small Business Administration	DC
SDN Project, The 1:141/840	(203)634-0370	The Original Software Distribution Network	Ray Kaliss	CT
SEABOARD!	(804)442-6047	Support system for ARC, SEADOG, and AXE software.	System Enhancement Associates	VA
SENDIT	(701)237-3283	North Dakota K-12 Educational Net-telnet sendit.nodak.edu	Gleason Sackman/NDU	ND
SIGCAT BBS	(703)648-4168	CD-ROM/Optical Publishing Info - Lists of Gov. CD Data	SIG on CD-ROM Applications and Technol.	MD
STCS BBS	(801)774-6509	Software Engineering, Government & Software Organizations	George A. Klipper	UT
Sahara Club BBS	(818)893-1899	Land-Use issues, Off-Road, Timber, Conservation	Patrick Martin/Sahara Club	CA
Salt Air BBS	(801)261-8976	Home of PCBboard BBS Software - National List of PCB Sys	Clark Development Company/David Terry	UT
San Diego NeXT User's Group BBS	(619)456-2522	Support for NeXT Computers	Brian Dear/San Diego NeXT User's Group	CA
Science Resource Studies BBS	(202)634-1764	Federal R&D Budget - Technical Labor Market Statistics	National Science Foundation	D.C.
Seagate Technical Support BBS	(408)438-8771	Installation and Specifications for Hard Drive Models	Seagate/Bill Rudok	CA
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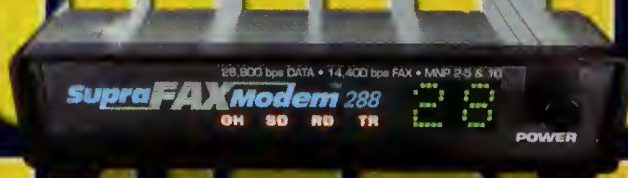
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SEPARATING TRENDS FROM FADS, AGAIN

I have a preoccupation with fads. When I see a spike in activity such as with the Internet, I immediately think to myself: FAD! This preoccupation is something that a columnist must study religiously lest he turn himself into one by accident. Any scene that involves style and taste seems particularly susceptible to faddism. The fashion scene maximizes the potential for faddism. Just look at the cycles we see in pants. We can start with peddle pushers and move to pegged pants, ultra-bells and right to today's baggy

gangsta' pants. A lot of kids wear what can only be called knickers now a days.



Here's a list of short-lived fads in fashion: topless bathing suits, see-thru blouses, slit skirts, paper dresses, poodle skirt, Levi skirts, the mini skirt, the midi skirt, the maxi dress, hotpants, dashiki, the beehive hairdo, pill box hats, pink lipstick, white lipstick, black lipstick, patchouli oil, musk oil, platform shoes, the natural look, tie-dye t-shirts, headbands, pleated pants, knickers, thin ties, fat ties, string ties, no ties, wide lapels, narrow lapels, no lapels, the Nehru jacket, the Mao jacket, single breasted, double breasted, dickies, celluloid

collars, french cuffs, 3/4-length sleeves, spats, earth shoes, sandals made from old tires, Birkenstocks, clogs, straw hats, fedoras, bowlers, the beret and sweatshirt look, beatniks, tambourines as accessory, the razor-cut, the do it yourself razor cut trimmer, flat top, butch haircut, etc., etc. I love these lists of weird fads.

Exactly what goes on in society that causes this ridiculous fluctuation in appearances? What motivates the change and what is the worst outcome of such a fluctuation if it goes ballistic?

Most importantly: is it possible that the entire BBS or online computer scene is subject to the same phenomenon? When we see, for example, a sudden Internet mania, do we see it as a fad or a trend? I'm of the opinion that most everything is a fad and there are few true trends. Unfortunately some fads last so long that they fight off the fad label and appear to be trends to those (99% of the population) who view the world with a short term perspective. Fins on cars when they appeared seriously in 1957 and continued until about 1962 in one form or another were seen as a trend, not a fad in car design. The observers of the day would cite the late 1940s Cadillac as the progenitor of the "trend" with the dinky one-inch fin on top of the tail light which evolved into the gaudy foot high monster fins of 1959 with all automakers using them as a stylistic flourish. The 1957 Chrysler is my personal favorite. When this fad died in the mid 1960s one could look back and see it was clearly a fad. Just another design fad like so many that come and go. You can cite musical fads such as the sudden emergence of the sitar as a musical instrument in the late 1960s and which was incorporated into many rock songs. It sounded new and interesting for a few songs, then its use stopped overnight. It's back in India where it works fine with the unusual music appreciated in India.

Now if I go off on another one of my Internet critiques, I'm going to sound like an Internet basher, which I'm not. Although if I just did nothing but criticize the Internet I'd be privileged to be the ONLY Internet basher in the known universe. It seems that for some odd reason few people will criticize the Internet or any computing fad. OK, so why is the Internet a fad?

First of all the Internet is not new. Before Internet there was ARPAnet and the same massaging took place over a decade ago. What's changed that has made the Internet so compelling? Was it the development of the Gopher? How about the World-Wide-Web, affectionately known as W3? These showed up shortly after the sudden interest in the Internet blossomed. They may have added to the noise level but they didn't trigger anything.

So why did interest begin to spike? Some might argue that cheap 14.4 kbps modems allowed newcomers to get into online activity and they all piled onto the Internet because it's cheap and easy. This of course makes no sense because a newcomer doesn't get a modem one day and log onto the net the next day. It's not trivial. You have to have software, and you need a way to get onto the net in the first place. You aren't born with this knowledge.

Well how about the theory that America Online and Delphi hooked into the Internet so their users could get access as part of their service. This created the sudden interest. I'd argue that the spiking took place before AOL and Delphi fully implemented access and surely before the users of those services understood anything about the Internet and what it offers.

Perhaps the CompuServe and MCI gateways for mail service had something to do with it. But these are just mail carriers and gateways and while cheap mail is a critical element of the net, the real action is in the news-groups, the IRC and the World Wide Web. Or is it?

Let's look at free mail. Free mail seems to be a societal trend and part of a communications revolution. Much of the activity on the 50,000 BBSs around the country is about free mail.

Now it seems unlikely that mail alone would spark the phenomenon. But before we say that let's examine the early Prodigy phenomenon whereby Prodigy became an overnight success (an unprofitable success, I should add) because it offered free unlimited mail. When Prodigy began, numerous 2400 baud computer users were enamored with the ability to send an e-mail note from Catspaw Idaho to their girlfriends back in college in Atlanta. Families

would keep in touch, there was a whole e-mail underground forming. The phenomenon reached an abrupt end when the Prodigy providers saw that instead of reading advertisements, the users were just communicating with each other like crazy. In fact there were a number of software packages becoming available that blanked out the advertising from the Prodigy screens, (this was proof as to how much people hate online advertising — we'll discuss this in a future column).

After years of research the Prodigy folks were coming to the realization that their research was seriously flawed. Of course they never spoke with anyone actually familiar with known online phenomenon figuring that the BBS community in particular didn't have a clue. But this is typical when guys lock themselves in a building and re-invent the wheel from scratch with no help from wheel designers. In this case they ended up with an oval shaped wheel. "The oval shape allows it to go over rough terrain." Too bad it doesn't work at all on the freeway.

So Prodigy cut off the free mail and there was a huge group of people that had been trained to understand a little bit of online activity by Prodigy itself. AND they wanted free mail.

In the same time frame two other events were occurring. One was the explosion of the BBS scene and millions of users understanding the notion of mail relay with some systems such as FIDO specializing in mail relay. And the high profile hacker case where that Morris kid damn near brought down the Internet with his worm-virus program that was sent out on the network as an experiment. Front page headlines everywhere about this case. It made the Internet a household name. And because every newspaper in the country felt obliged to explain what the Internet was all about the public-at-large became aware of the fact that the Internet was a lot of things, but it was mostly FREE MAIL!

You can put two and two together as well as I can. The Morris case dragged on long enough to put the Internet into the public mindset as a commonplace. It was after the Morris case that the growth of the net began. And the growth began to spike after Prodigy cut off the free mail. I don't see these things as coincidences. What I do see though is the other aspects of the

Internet as a fad and the Internet as a network for free mail as a trend. All the fancy stuff you can do on the Internet will still be do-able, but people will fall back to using the net for free mail and not much else. There are better ways to get information than from the Internet, let's face it. But there is no better way to deliver mail to Bulgaria! The net will eventually go back into being the low-profile academic and professional meeting place where professors can exchange ideas and documents. Its use as a secure place for businesses to do transactions will never come to fruition. Simply put, the net is too easy to hack. And its usefulness as a source of information is questionable.

My prediction: if the US Postal System ever got its act together and provided an MCI-like mail environment that was free for the general public, the Internet would devolve into its old self overnight.

In fact, the US Postal System should do just that with links to all major BBSs (and, of course, the Internet). Taxpayers would subsidize it. The goal is to end the delivery of small envelopes from New York to San Francisco for 29-cents each. The Post Office is losing money, and should modernize and re-

invent itself so this stops. An nationwide e-mail system would be a start. It would have the added benefit of being protected by government privacy laws just like real mail.

Free mail is no fad.

PEANUT SOUP

My wife stumbled on to a 1933 Diary written by one Betty Sutton which contains a gold mine of recipes long forgotten. This recipe is transcribed exactly as written in the diary. If anyone knows the origin of this kind of soup, I'd be interested.

Ingredients:

1/2 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup hot water
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
4 cups milk

Mix the peanut butter and hot water until smooth. Melt butter in a saucepan, add flour, salt and pepper and when mixed remove from fire and add the milk. Return to the fire and bring to the boiling point, stirring constantly. Remove from the fire, add the peanut mixture, beat until thoroughly mixed and serve.

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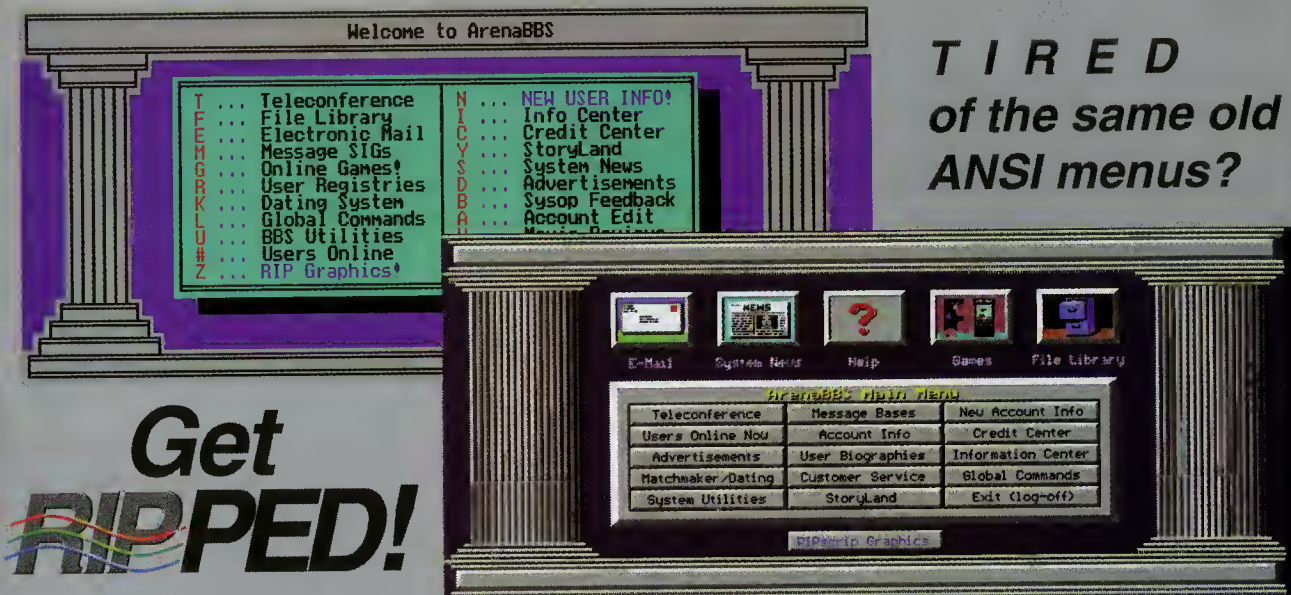
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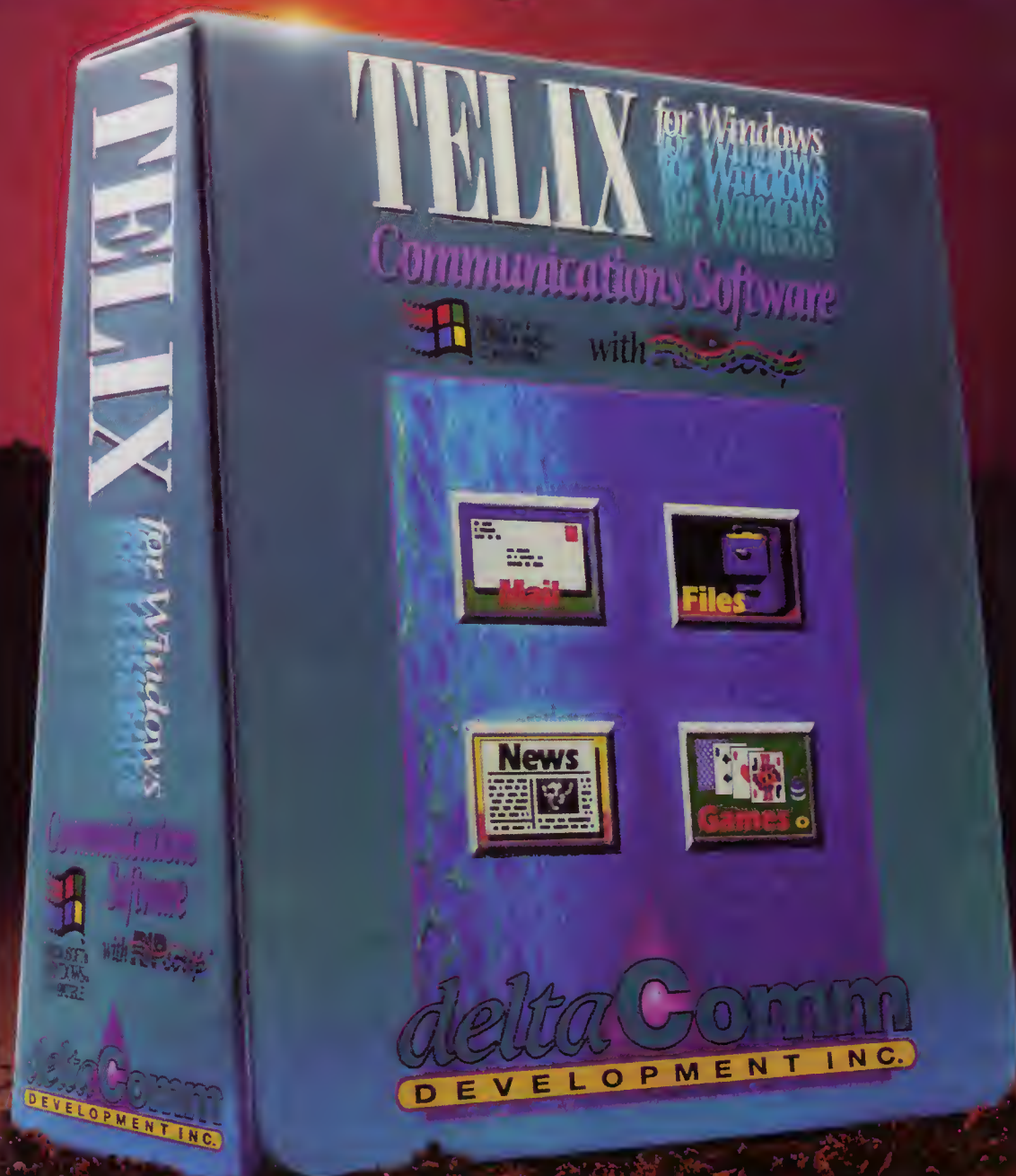
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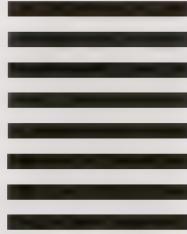
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